



no. 6 | TOMO TAKEUCHI

WELCOME TO THE BALLROOM

WELCOME no. 6 | TOMO
TAKEUCHI
TO THE BALLROOM

The background of the entire page is a black and white photograph of an ornate, vaulted ceiling. The ceiling features intricate carvings, including floral and scrollwork patterns. Several large, rectangular skylights are integrated into the design, allowing natural light to filter through. The overall aesthetic is that of a grand, historic interior space, possibly a ballroom or a formal hall.

Contents

Heat 22

Swap the Lead

003

Heat 23

Form Up

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Heat 24

Give and Take

075

Heat 25

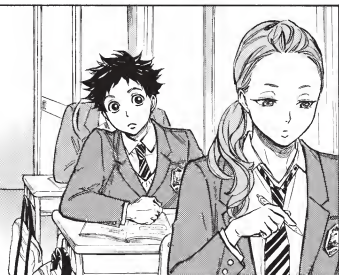
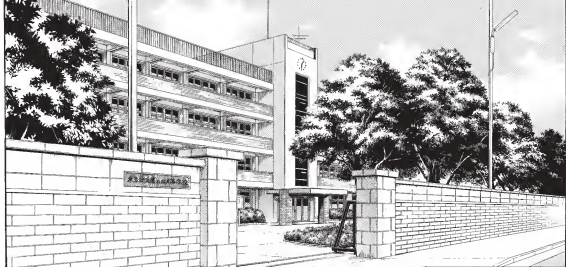
So Sneaky

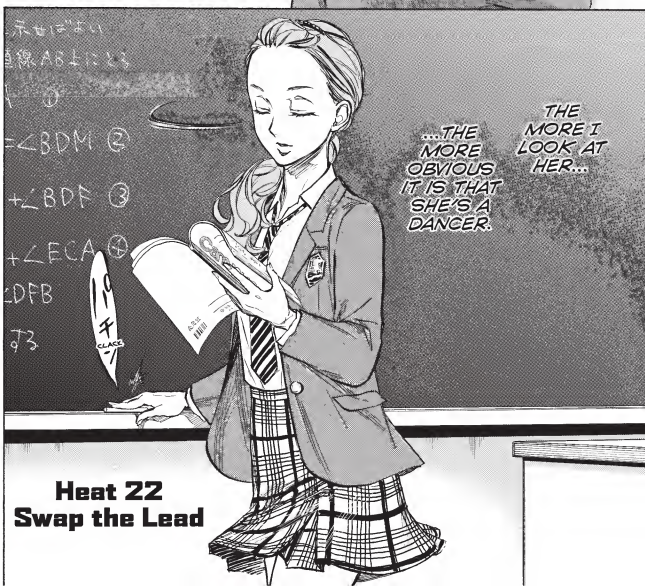
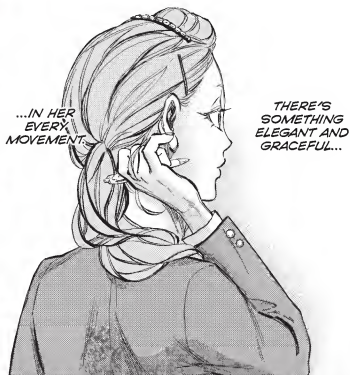
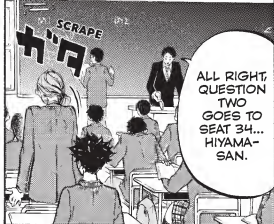
123

Heat 26

Know Thyself

153





NOW YOU
TRY THE
SAME
STEPS.

1-2-3.

1-2-3.

DSCJ Official Competitions Schedule Jan.-Jun.

DATE	DANCE	RANK	COMPETITION NAME	Open to Ranks															
				A	C	D	N	1	2	3	4	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
5/12	A	K	DS Grand Prix in Kumamoto WDSF Standard World Qualifiers WDSF Senior Latin World Qualifiers	S	1	1	1	1										1	1
				L	1	1	1	1										2	1
5/17	A	S	42nd Shiga Prefectural DS Contest	S	1	1	1	1	1	1								6	0
				L	1	1	1	1	1	1								2	2
5/18	A	T	16th Chiba Prefectural DS Championships	S	1	1	1					1			1				
				L	1	1	1					1			1				
5/19	P	H	JPBDA Dance Meet	S	1	1	1	1	1	1	1							8	1
				L	1	1	1	1	1	1	1							7	1
5/19	D	M	Tohoku Open Dance Meet Scout's Title	S	1	1	1	1	1	1									
				L	1	1	1	1	1	1									
5/19	A	T	38th Ibaraki Prefectural DS Meet	S	1	2	2	1							1				
				L	1	2	2	1							1				

*COMPETITIONS ALLOWING NOVICE (N, UNRANKED) DANCERS TO ADVANCE TO LEVEL D.

Op

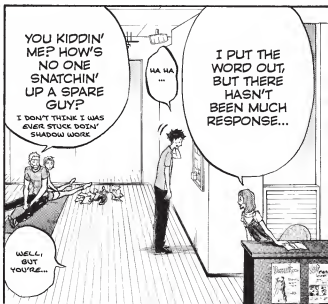
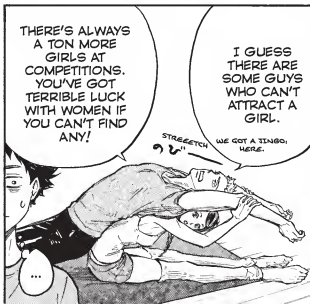
C	D	N	1	2	3
1	1				
1	1				
1	1		1		
1	1		1		
1	1				
1	1				
1	1				

YUP. SEE
HOW MANY
THERE ARE
ALL YEAR?

CUZ SO MANY
PEOPLE START OUT
AS NOVICES.

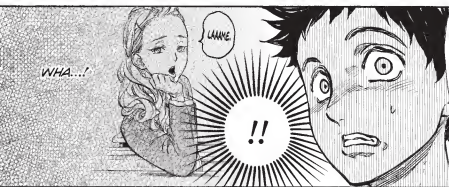
THERE'S
A BUNCH
EVERY
MONTH...

TAMAKI-SAN...WHEN
THERE'S A "1" IN
THE N COLUMN,
DOES THAT MEAN
THE CONTEST HAS A
NOVICE MATCH?





WHAT
ABOUT
CHII-
CHAN!

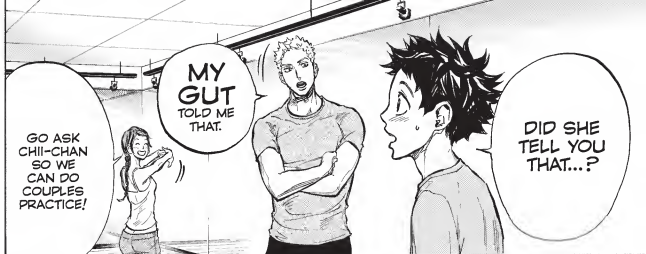


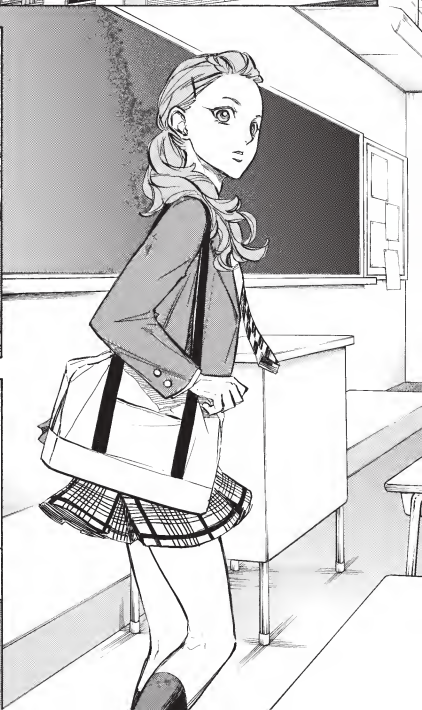
WHA...!

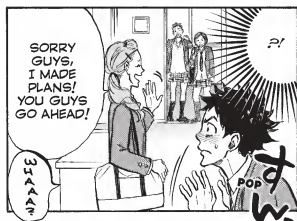
THAT'S
A GREAT
IDEA! THEIR
HEIGHT'S
NOT TOO OUT
OF WHACK,
EITHER.



AS IF
THERE'S
ANY GIRLS
YOU ARE
FRIENDS
WITH.

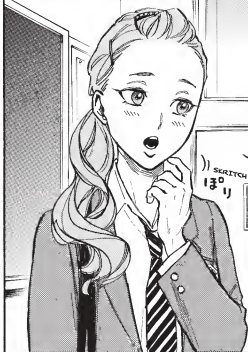






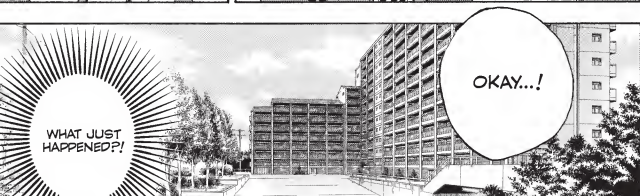


UH...



SCRATCH
ほゝ

MIND IF I GO
HOME TO GET MY
SHOES FIRST?



WHAT JUST
HAPPENED?!

OKAY...!



YEAH, I
GUESS.

YOU LIVE
PRETTY CLOSE TO
SCHOOL, HUH!



チラ見
GLANCE

チラ見
GLANCE

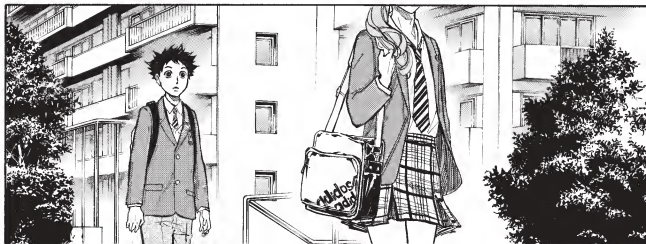
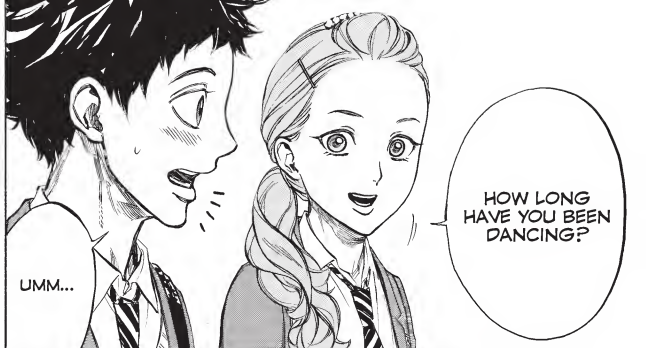
SOOO...
IT'S
FUJITA-
KUN, IS
RIGHT?

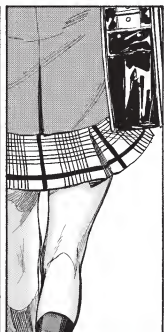
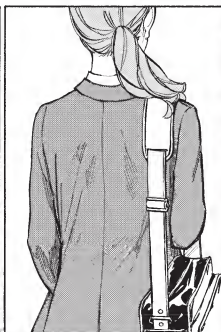
THAT'S THE
FIRST TIME
I'VE EVER
WAITED FOR A
GIRL OUTSIDE
HER HOUSE...!

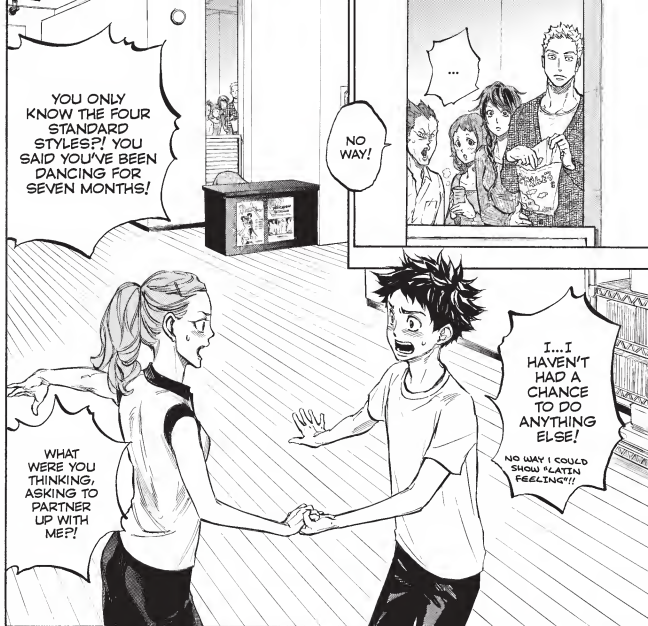


I'M
BACK!

I DIDN'T
EVEN HAVE
TO BRIBE
HER BY
SAYING
HONGO-SAN
WILL BE
THERE OR
ANYTHING...







YOU ONLY
KNOW THE FOUR
STANDARD
STYLES?! YOU
SAID YOU'VE BEEN
DANCING FOR
SEVEN MONTHS!

NO
WAY!

I...I
HAVEN'T
HAD A
CHANCE
TO DO
ANYTHING
ELSE!

NO WAY I COULD
SHOW "LATIN
FEELING"!!

WHAT
WERE YOU
THINKING,
ASKING TO
PARTNER
UP WITH
ME?!



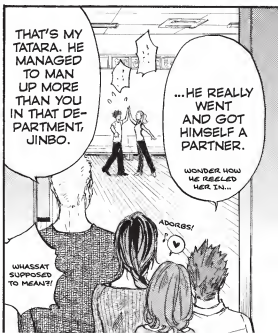
WE'LL
LEAD IN
WITH A
NATURAL
TURN,
AND THEN...

UM...

I'LL JUST
LEAD IN THE
ROUTINE I
USUALLY
DO, OKAY?
PLEASE?!



SO WHAT,
THEN? WE
GONNA
DO SOME
BASIC
WALTZ?!



THAT'S MY
TATARA. HE
MANAGED TO
MAN
UP MORE
THAN YOU
IN THAT DE-
PARTMENT,
JINBO.

...HE REALLY
WENT
AND GOT
HIMSELF A
PARTNER.

WONDER HOW
HE REELED
HER IN...

WHASSAT
SUPPOSED
TO MEAN?!

ADORE!



I HAVEN'T
DONE A
COUPLES
PRACTICE
IN SO
LONG!
TIME FOR
THE BEST
LEAD I
CAN DO!



TWO,
THREE...

ONE...



SHE
PICKS
ON EVERY
LITTLE
THING.

ONE...



YEAH, I AM!
EXCUSE
YOU!

I'M
STEPPING
OUT WITH
THE LEFT,
GOT IT?

HOW TALL
ARE YOU
ANYWAY?
ARE YOU
EVEN FIVE
FEET?

PRETTY
SURE
I'LL BE
TALLER
THAN
YOU
WHEN I
PUT ON
HEELS.

NO, WE'RE
NOT! THAT'S
NOT THE
LEAD I WAS
GIVING
YOU...

HUH?
WE'RE NOT
DOING A
TURNING
LOCK
NEXT?

WHY
ARE YOU
GOING
THAT
WAY?!

SWP...

?!
...

GRUMP

...

...?

WINGE

DON'T
GIVE
ME THAT
LOOK.

LOOK,
I CAN'T
TELL.

YOUR
LEAD ISN'T
COMING
THROUGH.

AW,
COME
ON...



...I GOT
WORSE AT
LEADING...?

COULD IT
BE...



WHA...
REALLY?

WHADDYA
MEAN
"REALLY"?

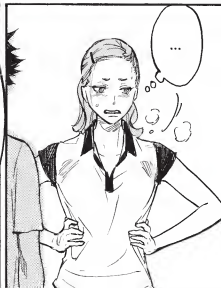
C'MON...

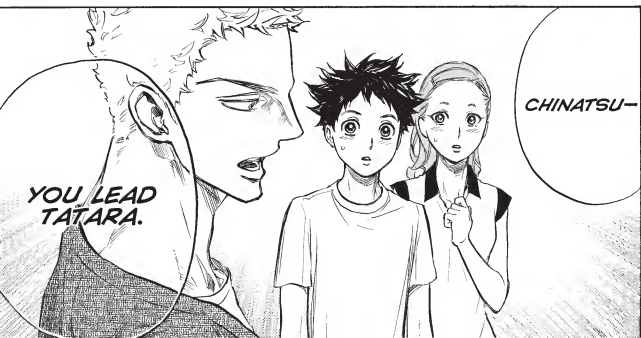
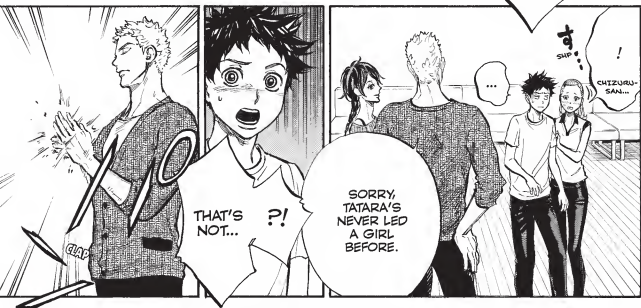
HEY...
DON'T
SWING
ME
AROUND
LIKE THAT.

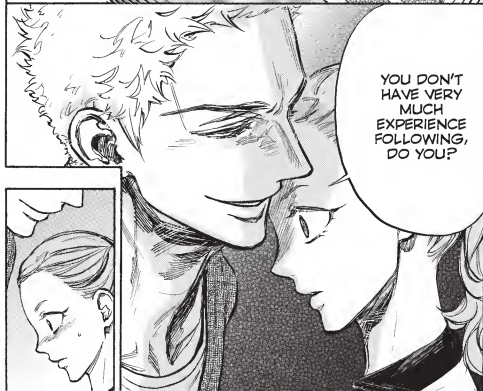
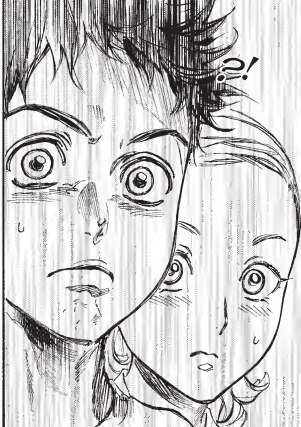
IT'S EASY
TO MESS
UP THE
LADY'S
POISE.



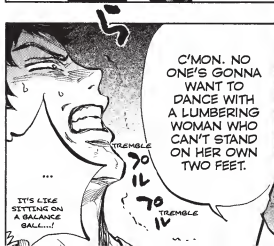
HAVE YOU
EVER DANCED
WITH A GIRL
BEFORE?













I HAD NO
IDEA HOW
HARD
IT WAS
TO STAY
BALANCED
IN THE
LADY'S
POSE. IT
HURTS...

SORRY TO
BE SO MUCH
TROUBLE!!

CHINATSU,
WOULD YOU
GO RESCUE
THE POOR
THING?

DOESN'T LOOK
LIKE HE CAN GET
INTO POSITION
ON HIS OWN.



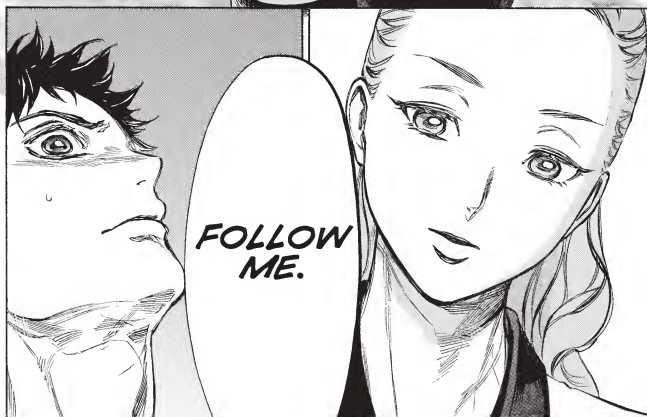
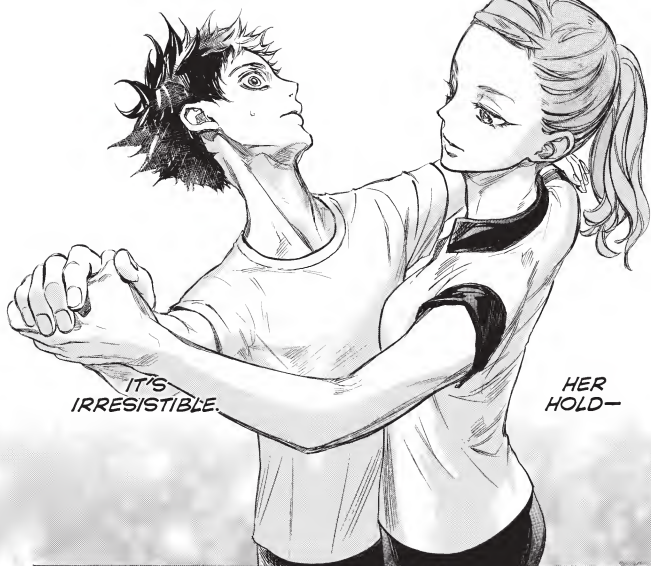
WAIT A
SECOND...



©DMP

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≠



THIS
AMALGAMATION
STARTS WITH
THE FOLLOWER
MOVING
FORWARD?!

THIS
STEP...!

SHP

KICK

!

TMP

A WHISK...!

NEXT I BET
SHE'S GOING
TO OPEN OUR
POSITIONS—

PROMENADE
POSITION—

HIYAMA-
SAN'S LEAD
IS SO EASY
TO PICK UP
ON....!

うん

うう



...THIS,
WE CAN
DO!

NOW
SHE'S
GOING
TO A
NATURAL
TURN....!



YEAH.
FOR SOME
REASON,
HE'S QUICK
AT PICKIN' UP
WHAT OTHER
PEOPLE DO.

IS THIS
REALLY THE
FIRST TIME
TATARA-
KUN'S EVER
DANCED THE
FOLLOW...?



CHINATSU-
CHAN IS SO
GOOD AT
THE LEAD,
ISN'T SHE?

WHAT
HAPPENED TO
THOSE TWO?
THEY'RE 100%
IN SYNC NOW.



READING
THE SIGNALS
FROM MY
PARTNER...



THIS
FEELING—

IT
REMINDS
ME OF
THE
FINALS
IN THE
TENPEI
CUP.



LEADING...

SKWIK

SKWIK

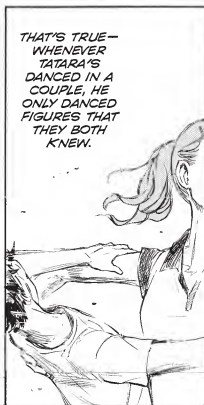
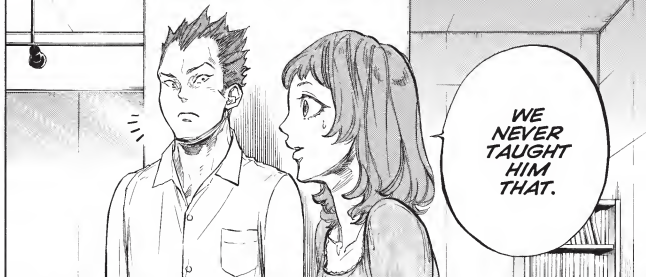
?!
?

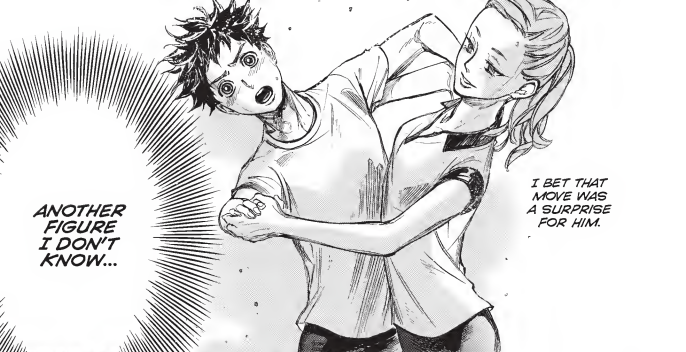
WHAT
...?
THIS FIGURE—I...

CHANGE THE
DIRECTION...

TO A
PIVOT...!
RETREAT—

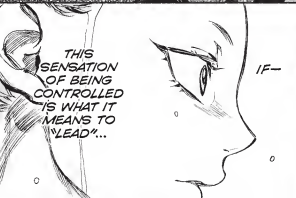
...





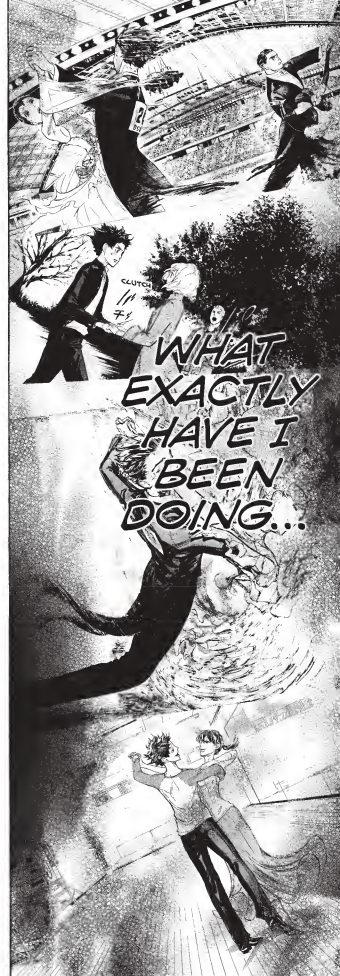
ANOTHER
FIGURE
I DON'T
KNOW...

I BET THAT
MOVE WAS
A SURPRISE
FOR HIM.

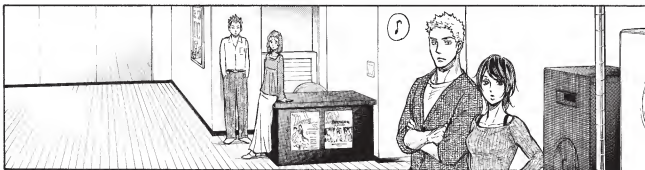
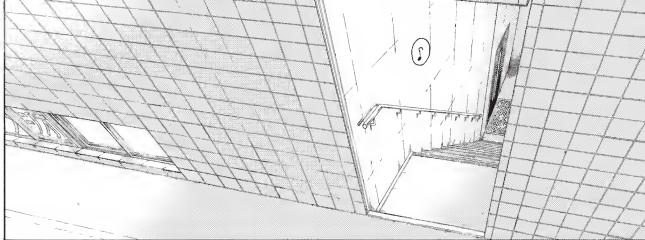


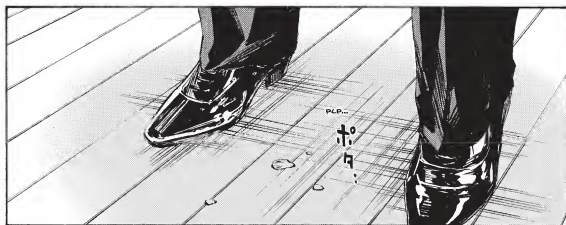
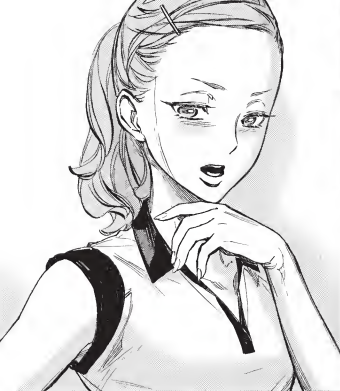


...ALL
THIS
TIME
...?!



WHAT
EXACTLY
HAVE I
BEEN
DOING...





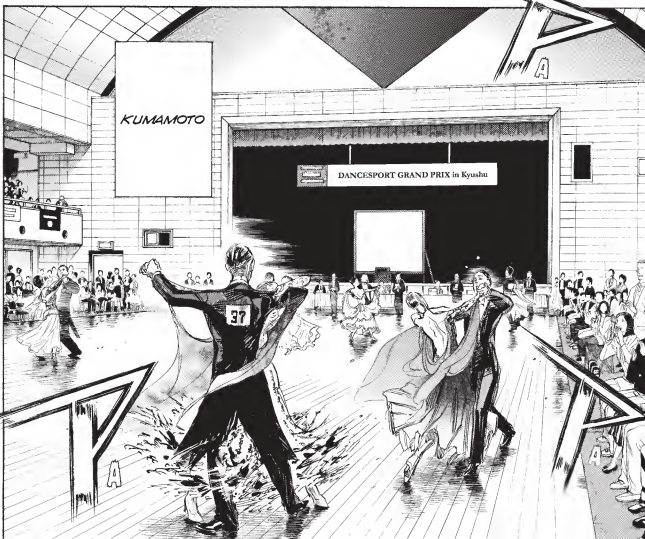


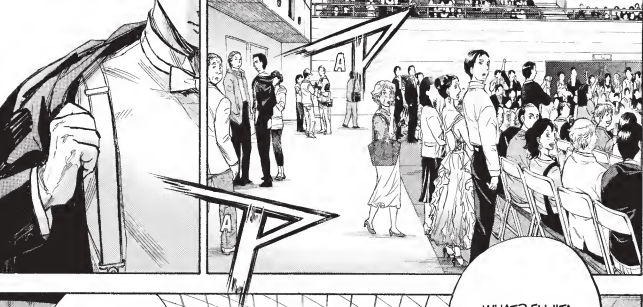
TWO WEEKS
AFTER THE
"DANCESPORT
GRAND PRIX IN
OSAKA"



KUMAMOTO

DANCESPORT GRAND PRIX in Kyushu





HE SAID
SOMETHIN'
ABOUT HOW
HE GOT BEAT
BY A GIRL.

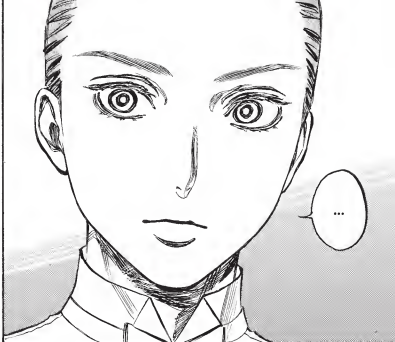
?!

WHAT? FUJITA
STILL HASN'T
MANAGED TO
FIND A
PARTNER?

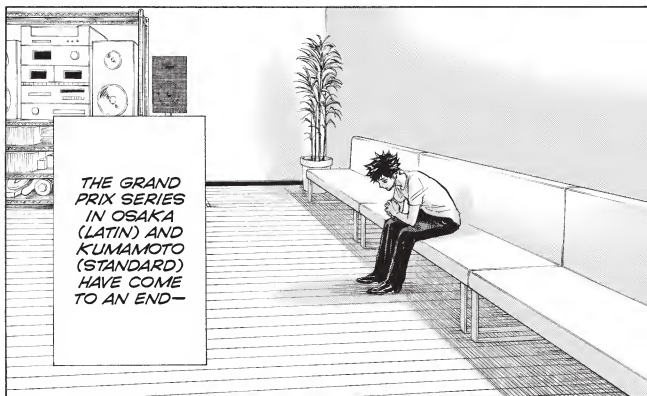
in Kyushu



WHEN
WAS
THAT...?



...



THE GRAND
PRIX SERIES
IN OSAKA
(LATIN) AND
KUMAMOTO
(STANDARD)
HAVE COME
TO AN END—



THREE
MATCHES
LEFT.

Heat 22: END

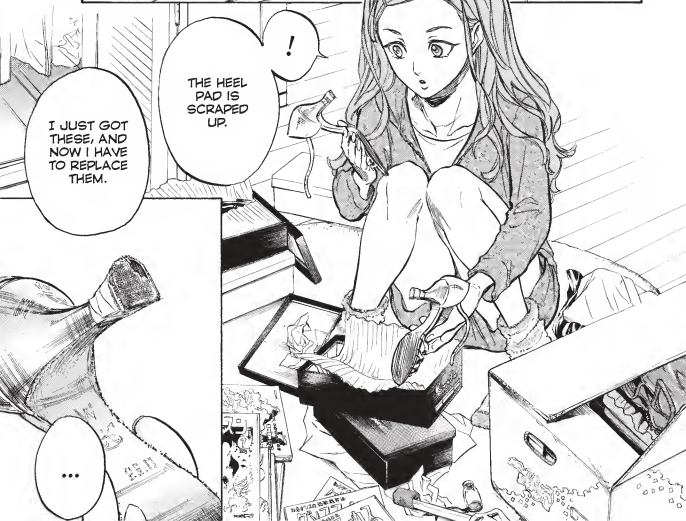
WELCOME
TO THE BALLROOM

Heat 23 Form Up



DON'T
NEED
THESE.

I NEED
THESE.

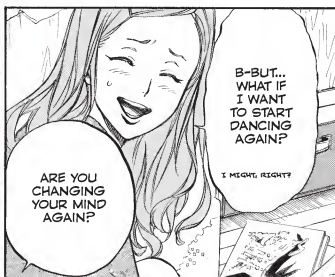


I JUST GOT
THESE, AND
NOW I HAVE
TO REPLACE
THEM.

!

THE HEEL
PAD IS
SCRAPED
UP.

...



ALL RIGHT,
FINE. JUST
PACK
EVERYTHING
UP
TOMORROW.

I...I WANT
TO HANG
OUT WITH
MY FRIENDS
AND JUST BE
A NORMAL
HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT!

ぎゅ、
STUFF

ぎゅ、
STUFF

THAT
WOULD
WORK
FOR A
SAMBA,
MAYBE?

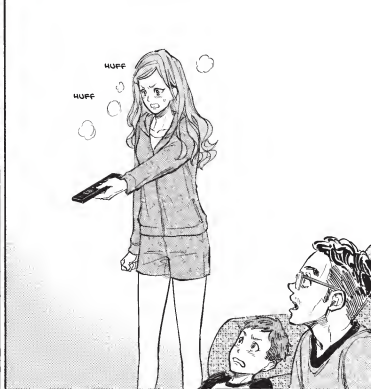
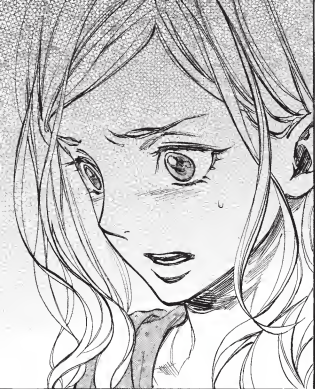
WHAT
THAT
MUSIC...

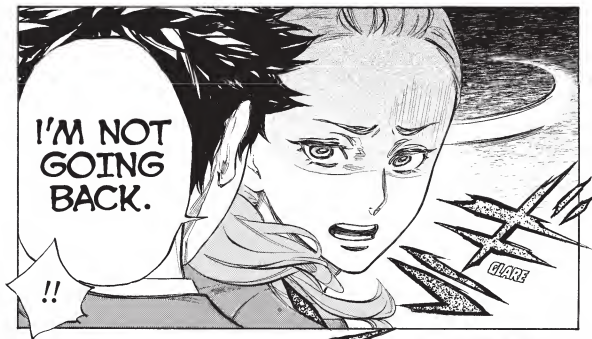
CHINATSU,
WHAT'S
WRONG?!

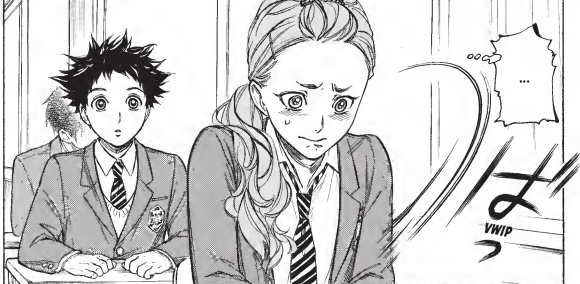
ト
BEEP
MUTE

HEY! I
CAN'T
HEAR
THE TV!

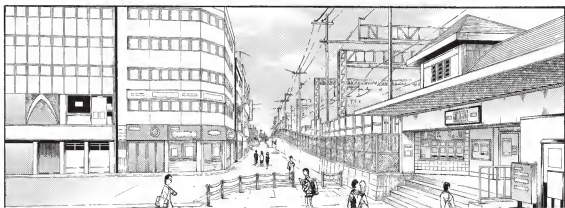
...







I NEVER SHOULD'VE
BEEN SO CASUAL
ABOUT GOING TO A
DANCE STUDIO IF
THIS IS HOW I WAS
GONNA FEEL...





SENGOKU-SAN'S BUSY BECAUSE BLACKPOOL* IS COMING UP SOON.

AND THE YAKAGIS MADE IT ALL THE WAY TO THE FINALS FOR THE FIRST TIME.

DANCESPORT GRAND PRIX in Kyushu

AT THE DANCESPORT GRAND PRIX IN KYUSHU LAST WEEK, HYODO'S TEAM WON FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW.

AND THEY'RE ONLY HOLDING STANDARD COMPETITIONS IN SHIZUOKA AND SENDAI...



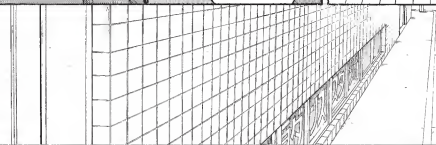
IN HOKKAIDO
IN KUMAMOTO
IN SENDAI
IN SHIZUOKA
IN OSAKA

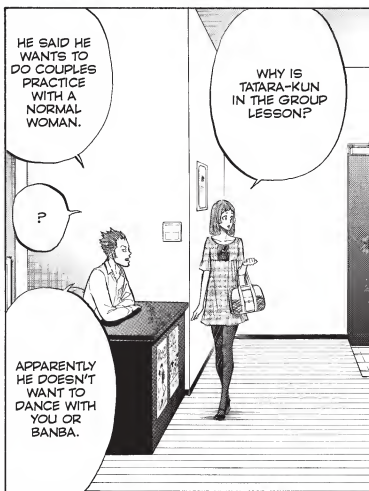
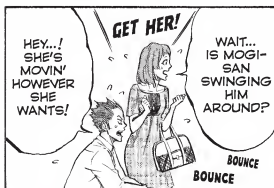
THE LAST THREE ARE IN SHIZUOKA, HOKKAIDO, AND SENDAI—

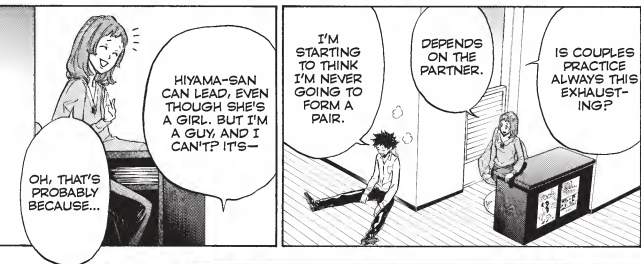
**TWO OUT
OF THE FIVE
MATCHES IN
THE GRAND
PRIX SERIES
ARE OVER.**

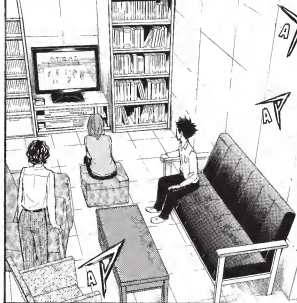
[illegible]

7/14	A	C	16th Shizuoka Prefectural Western Regional DS Meet	S	L	1	1	1	1	1	1						2	
				L	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						2	
7/14	A	S	Western Block DS Qualifiers	S	1	1	1	1	1	1	1							
				L	1	1	1	1	1	1	1							
7/21	A	T	16th Western Tokyo DS Meet	S	L	1	1	1	1	1	1						1	
				L	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						1	
7/28	A	C	DanceSport Grand Prix in Shizuoka World Senior Standard Qualifiers	S	0	1	1	1	1	1	1						2	
				L	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						1	

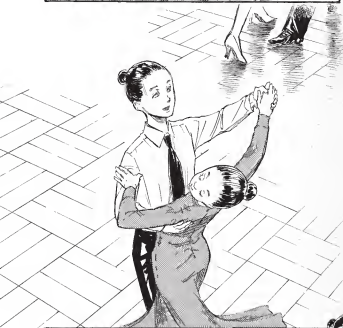








THIS IS
PROBABLY
WHAT
CHINATSU-
CHAN DID
BEFORE.



THERE ARE
COUPLES
WITH TWO
GIRLS MIXED
IN WITH THE
REGULAR
COUPLES...



WHAT...?

!



UM...

I HAVEN'T
SEEN ANY
COUPLES
LIKE THAT AT
THE COM-
PETITIONS...



CHIZURU-
CHAN DID A
LITTLE BIT,
TOO. BUT
SHE WAS
TOO GOOD.

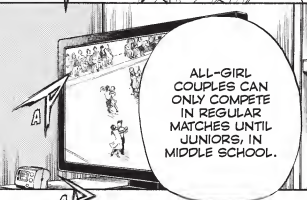
...



THAT TAKES
ME BACK. I
USED TO DO
THAT WITH MY
FRIENDS.



OH, I SEE
SOME ALL-
GIRL PAIRS.



ALL-GIRL
COUPLES CAN
ONLY COMPETE
IN REGULAR
MATCHES UNTIL
JUNIORS, IN
MIDDLE SCHOOL.



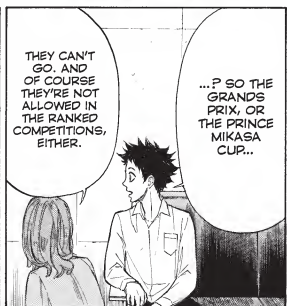
YES,
WELL...

THAT'S
BECAUSE
THEY AREN'T
ALLOWED IN
THE REGULAR
ADULT
MATCHES.



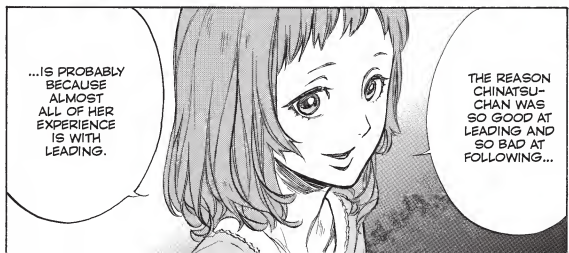
IT'S NOT
TERRIBLY EASY
TO FIND A
MAN WHO'S
ON HIS OWN.

NONE OF
MY FRIENDS
FROM
JUNIORS
WERE ABLE
TO FIND
PARTNERS,
SO THEY ALL
QUIT.



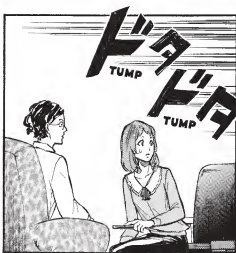
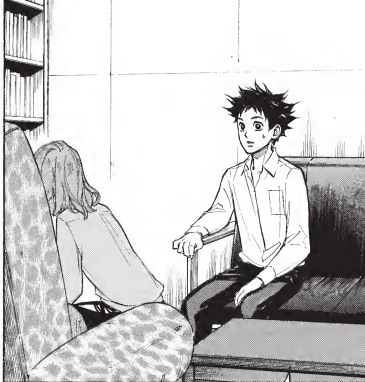
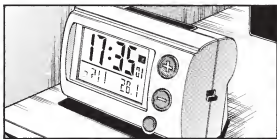
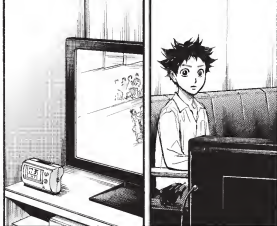
THEY CAN'T
GO. AND
OF COURSE
THEY'RE NOT
ALLOWED IN
THE RANKED
COMPETITIONS,
EITHER.

...P SO THE
GRANDS
PRIX, OR
THE PRINCE
MIKASA
CUP..



...IS PROBABLY
BECAUSE
ALMOST
ALL OF HER
EXPERIENCE
IS WITH
LEADING.

THE REASON
CHINATSU-
CHAN WAS
SO GOOD AT
LEADING AND
SO BAD AT
FOLLOWING...





WHEN HE
SIGNED UP
FOR THAT
GROUP
LESSON, HE
TOLD ME HE'D
PAY FOR IT.

APPARENTLY
HE STARTED
A PART-TIME
JOB.

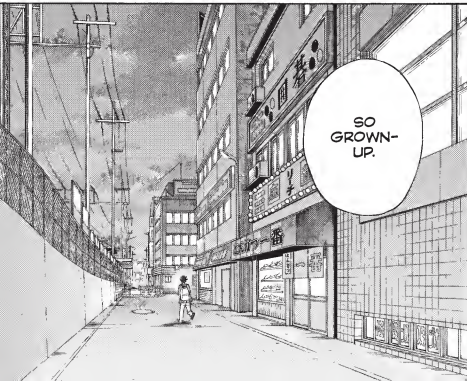
...WHAT'S
GOING
ON WITH
TATARA-
KUN?

S
L
A
M

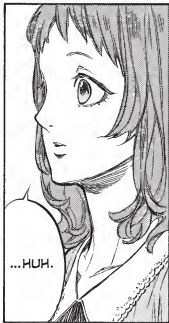


IT SOUNDS
LIKE HE
DOESN'T WANT
TO ASK HIS
PARENTS FOR
ANYTHING.

HE'S GOING TO
HAVE TO PAY
ENTRY FEES AND
BUY CLOTHES
TO GO TO
COMPETITIONS...



SO
GROWN-
UP.

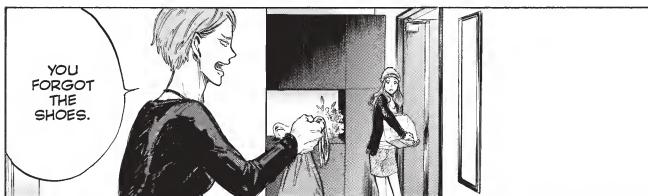


...HUH.

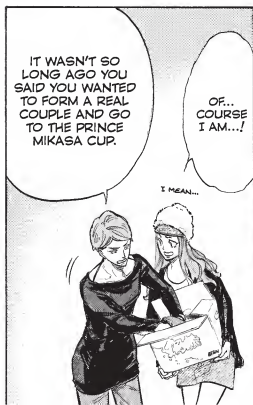


HOLD ON,
CHINATSU!

I'LL SEE
YOU LATER,
MOM!



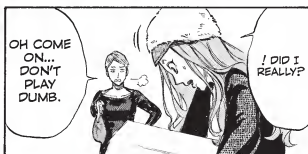
YOU
FORGOT
THE
SHOES.



IT WASN'T SO
LONG AGO YOU
SAID YOU WANTED
TO FORM A REAL
COUPLE AND GO
TO THE PRINCE
MIKASA CUP.

OF...
COURSE
I AM...!

I MEAN...

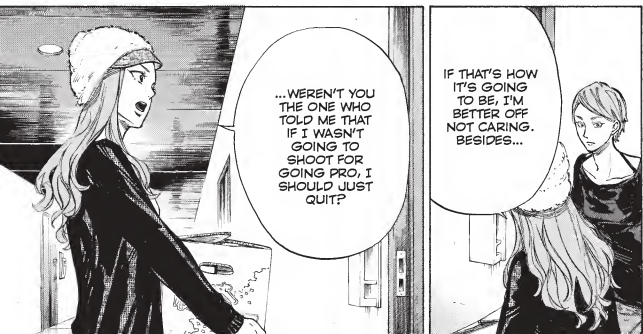


OH COME
ON...
DON'T
PLAY
DUMB.

! DID I
REALLY?

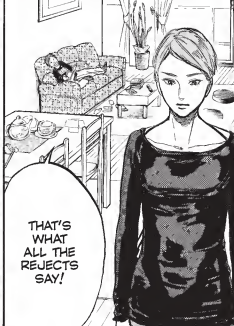


I KNOW
YOU'RE NOT
TOTALLY
READY TO
LET GO OF
DANCING.





I CAN'T
BELIEVE
YOU,
CHINATSU...



THAT'S
WHAT
ALL THE
REJECTS
SAY!

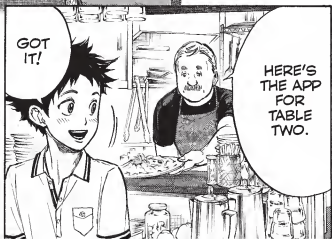
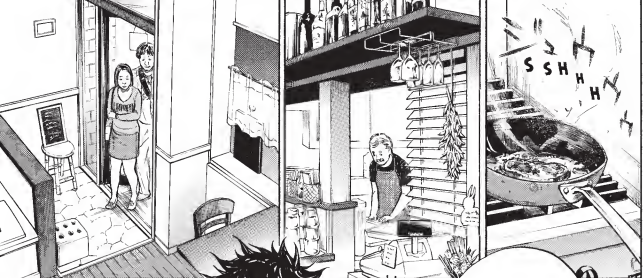


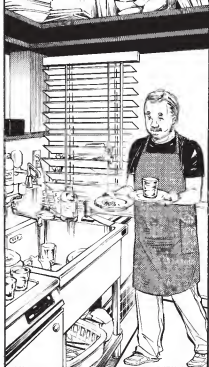
I'LL JOIN
A CLUB AT
SCHOOL AND
SPEND MY
TIME THERE!

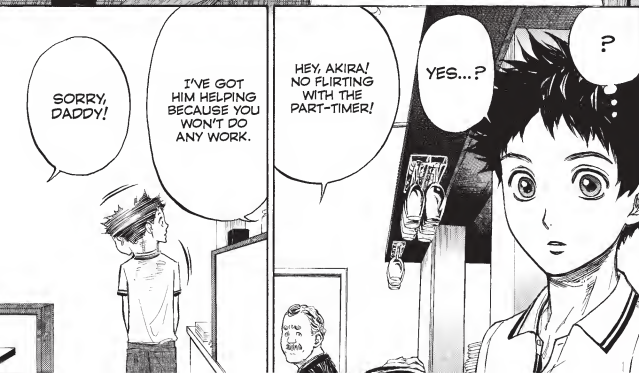


SHE DIDN'T
CLEAN UP AT
ALL...



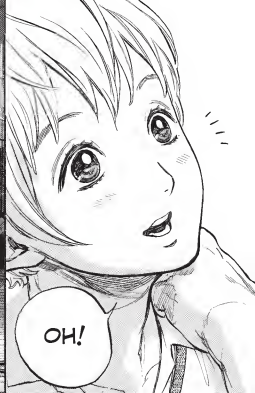








I LIVE HERE,
ACTUALLY.



OH!



THANK YOU
AGAIN! I'M
DOING MY
BEST!

RIGHT?

I'M
ACTUALLY
FRIENDS
WITH FUJITA-
KUN'S DAD.

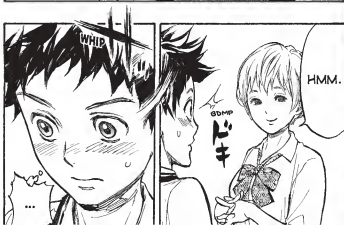
HE TOLD ME
HIS BOY WAS
LOOKING FOR
WORK.



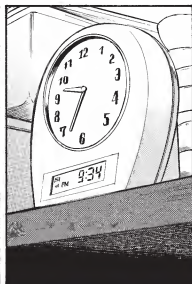
WHY DID
YOU GET A
JOB HERE?

YOU'RE A
FIRST-YEAR IN
HIGH SCHOOL
TOO, FUJITA-
KUN?!

MIND IF I CALL
YOU "TATARA-
KUN"?



HMM.





COMPETITIVELY.

I DANCE,
TOO.



THAT'S
AWESOME!!

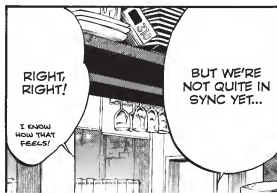
I'M GONNA BE
IN THE GRAND
PRIX THIS YEAR
WITH A NEW
PARTNER!



!

YOU
DO?!

YUP! EVER
SINCE
JUNIORS.



RIGHT,
RIGHT!

I KNOW
HOW THAT
FEELS!

BUT WE'RE
NOT QUITE IN
SYNC YET...

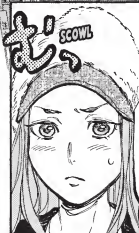


WHAT...! YOU
TWO KNOW
EACH OTHER?!

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE,
FUJITA?!

HEY THERE,
CHINATSU!

Pousse-Up



FROM
JUNIORS?!



SHE'S THE
OLD PARTNER
I WAS
TELLING YOU
ABOUT!

SHE MIGHT
NOT USE IT
THOUGH!

YOUR
KINDNESS
TO THE
POOR IS APPRECIAT-
ED!

I
BROUGHT
YOUR
LITTLE
SISTER
MY OLD
STUFF.

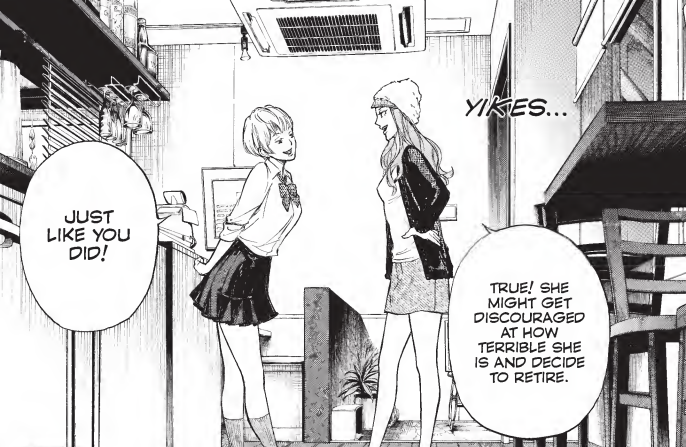
?!
P!

P

THOUGHT
THAT MIGHT
HELP YOU
GUYS
OUT WITH
MONEY A
LITTLE BIT!

WHAT'S
GOING
ON WITH
THESE
TWO?

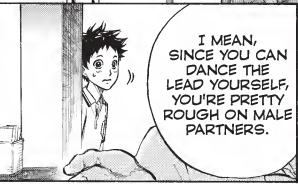
BAM



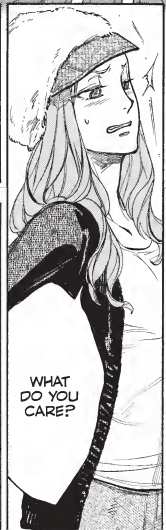
JUST
LIKE YOU
DID!

YIKES...

TRUE! SHE
MIGHT GET
DISCOURAGED
AT HOW
TERRIBLE SHE
IS AND DECIDE
TO RETIRE.



I MEAN,
SINCE YOU CAN
DANCE THE
LEAD YOURSELF,
YOU'RE PRETTY
ROUGH ON MALE
PARTNERS.

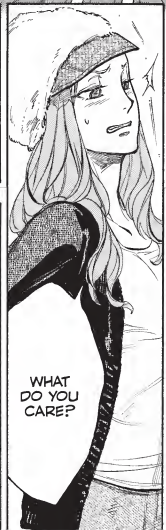


OH!



! SO
SOMEONE
ACTUALLY
TOOK YOU...

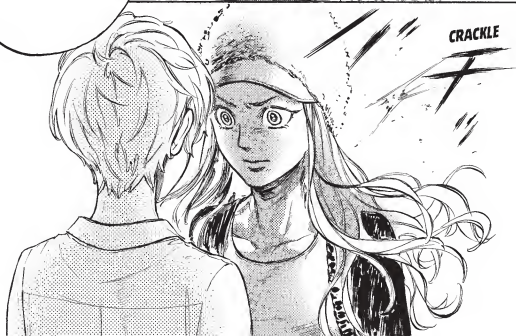
CAN YOU
BELIEVE
THE GUY
I TEAMED
UP WITH
IS EVEN
CLUMSIER
THAN YOU?



WHAT
DO YOU
CARE?



IS IT TRUE
THAT YOU
GOT FELT
UP BY OLD
MEN?





YOU'VE GOT
SOME NERVE
SAYING
THAT, SINCE
YOU NEVER
ONCE LET ME
FOLLOW.



NOT TO
MENTION
MORE
FEMININE.

GOSH!
DON'T
GLARE AT
ME LIKE
THAT!

HEE HEE.



COME ON,
I'M SHORTER
THAN YOU.



...!

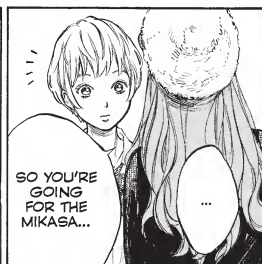


WE'RE TRYING TO
MAKE IT TO THE
SEMIFINALS SO WE
GET A SEED TO THE
MIKASA!

YOU SHOULD COME
TO THE SENDAI
GRAND PRIX IN
SEPTEMBER TO
CHEER ME ON!



I'M NOT
GOING...



SO YOU'RE
GOING
FOR THE
MIKASA...

...



...TO
CHEER
FOR
YOU.



YOU ALWAYS
MAKE YOUR
LEADER DO ALL
THE WORK... I
MIGHT AS WELL
HAVE BEEN
DANCING WITH
A DOG.



**WE'RE
AIMING
FOR A
SEED,
TOO!**

**BECAUSE I'M
GOING TO BE
IN THE GRAND
PRIX WITH
TATARA.**



**WHY
WOULDN'T
SHE
ASK ME
FIRST...?**

**MY
TATARA'S
PRETTY
GOOD,
Y'KNOW.**

!!

WHA...

HEHEH.

SWOOSH

**BUT
SHE
WAS SO
ANGRY
WHEN I
ASKED
HER TO
PRAC-
TICE!**

**WE'RE
WHAT
?!**



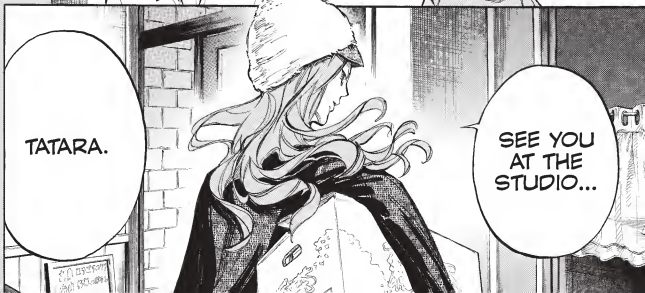


...ON
OUR WAY
TO THE
PRINCE
MIKASA
CUP



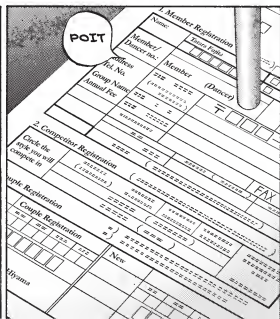
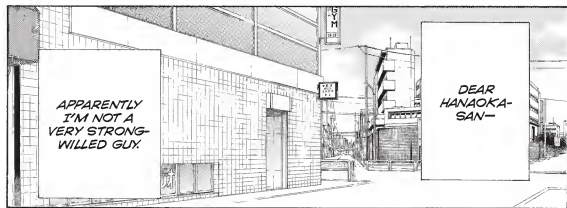
AND WE'LL
PUSH RIGHT
PAST YOUR
TEAM...

WE'LL BE
AT THAT
COMPETITION.



TATARA.

SEE YOU
AT THE
STUDIO...



TO
SUB
@
TEXT

SENGOKU-SAN
JUST MARRIED

size

OKAY,
SENDIN' TO
SENGOKU-
SAN!

SO I
TEAMED
UP WITH
HIYAMA-
SAN.

NOW WE
GET ALONG
SO WELL
THAT I
CALL HER
"CHII-CHAN"
AND SHE
CALLS ME
"TATARA."

GUESS
THEY'RE
A PAIR
NOW.

OHIO!

QUALIFIERS

IN TWO
WEEKS,
WE'LL BE IN
THE NOVICE
MATCH.

Da

est

DS

We

16

ontest

Sumida DS Contest

22nd Chofu City DS Contest

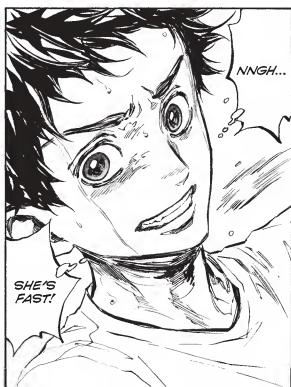
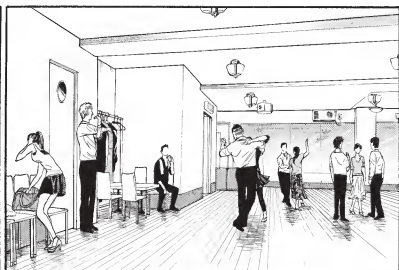
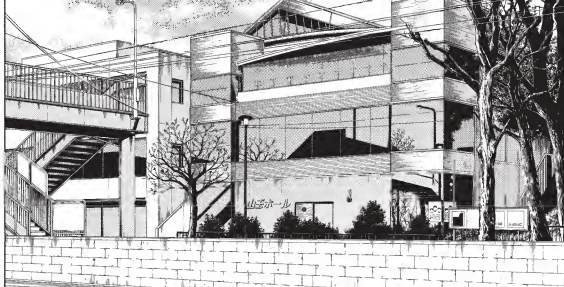
All-Kyushu Dance Championships

		A	B	C	D	N	1	2
Da	est	S	1	1	2	2	1	
		L	1	1	2	2	1	
DS		S			2	2	1	1
		L			2	2	1	1
We	ontest	S			1		1	1
		L			1		1	1
16		S			1	1	1	1
		L			1	1	1	1
Sumida DS Contest		S	1	1		1		
		L	1	1		1		
22nd Chofu City DS Contest		S					1	1
		L					1	1
All-Kyushu Dance Championships		S	1	1	2	2	1	1
		L						

THAT'S US!

Heat 23: END

WELCOME
TO THE BALLROOM





I
MEAN...

CH...
CHII-
CHAN,
YOU KEEP
MOVING
WITHOUT
ME...

HIYAMA-
S...

HOW CAN YOU
NOT
FOLLOW A
ROUTINE AS
SIMPLE AS
THIS?!

WELL, THAT'S
BECAUSE
I'M BARELY
GETTING ANY
LEAD FROM
YOU!

HUH...?!

AND
WE'RE
ALREADY
ON THE
VERGE OF
COLLAPSE
...!



WE'RE
THE
WORST
COMBO
EVER.

YOU'RE
THE GUY-
TRY BEING
CONFIDENT
ENOUGH TO
SPIN ME
AROUND AND
ACTUALLY
LEAD!



THIS
IS THE
WORST...

SHE'S THE
GIRL-WHY
WON'T SHE
FOLLOW
ME?



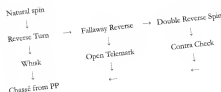
Heat 24 Give and Take

"NOVICE" REFERS TO AN
UNRANKED BEGINNER IN
COMPETITION.

AND
COMPETITORS
WHO PLACE
WITHIN THE TOP
10% OF THE
TOTAL NUMBER
OF ENTRIES...

...ARE
INSTANTLY
PROMOTED.

Figures for Novice Matches
(Waltz) Sample Amalgamation
[Ex. 1]



UNLIKE THE
HIGHER RANKS,
WHICH ALLOW A
GREAT DEGREE
OF FREEDOM IN
CHOREOGRAPHY,
NOVICE MATCHES
RESTRICT WHICH
FIGURES CAN
BE USED AND
PERFORM ONLY
TWO STYLES: THE
WALTZ AND THE
TANGO.

*ROUNDED UP

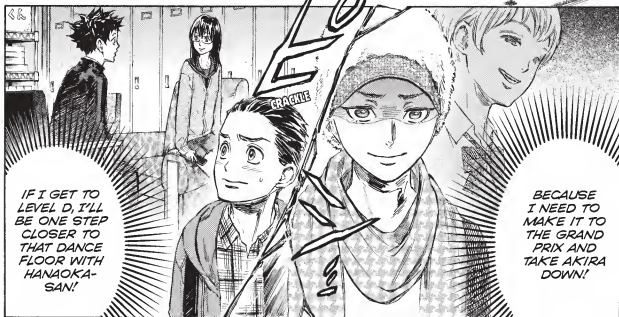
THEY'RE REGISTERED
AS LEVEL D
COMPETITORS, AND
ARE THEN ALLOWED
TO ENTER OFFICIAL
COMPETITIONS.

THE DAY OF
THE NOVICE
COMPETITION—



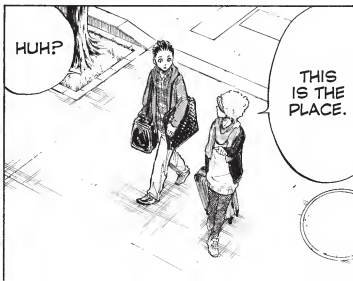
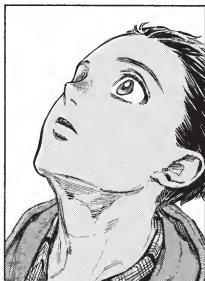
YOU
KNOW
IT, CHII-
CHAN!

YOU
READY?
TODAY, WE
DANCE AS
ONE!



IF I GET TO
LEVEL D, I'LL
BE ONE STEP
CLOSER TO
THAT DANCE
FLOOR WITH
HANAOKA-
SAN!

BECAUSE
I NEED TO
MAKE IT TO
THE GRAND
PRIX AND
TAKE AKIRA
DOWN!



HUH?

THIS
IS THE
PLACE.

LEVEL B
STANDARD.
TANGO.
FIRST
HEAT...

IT'S
BECAUSE
THEY'RE
HOLDING
B, C, AND
D LEVEL
MATCHES,
TOO.

...
THERE'S
SUCH A
HUGE RANGE
IN AGES
BETWEEN
THE
DANCERS.

YOUNG KIDS
UP TO ELDERLY
PEOPLE.

HERE'S
OUR
NUMBER!

IS THAT
THE
DANCE
FLOOR?

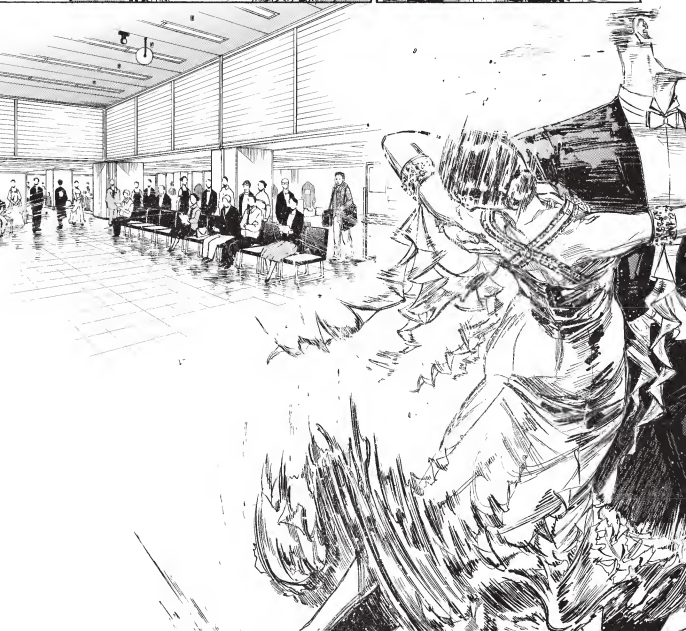
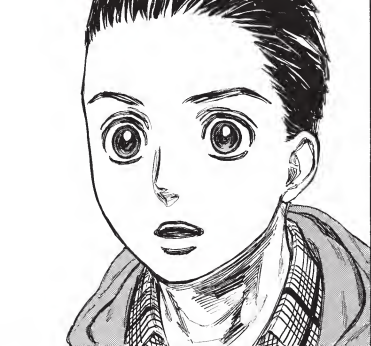
THAT
FEELS
LIKE A
GOOD
SIGN!

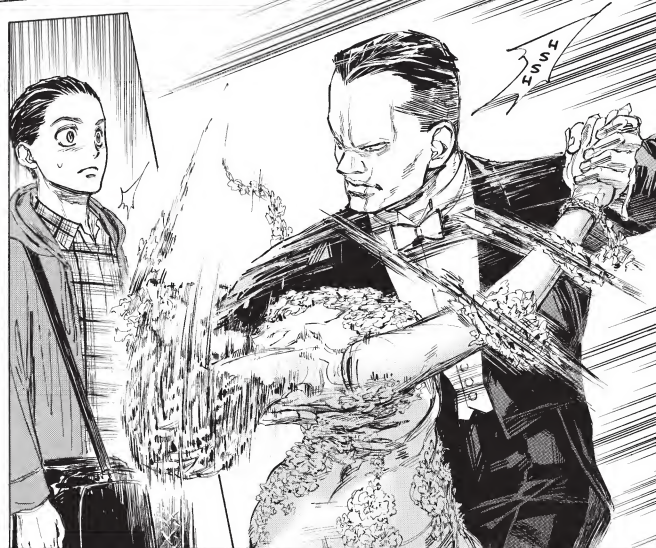
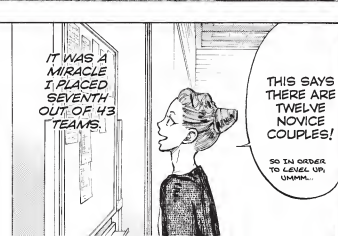
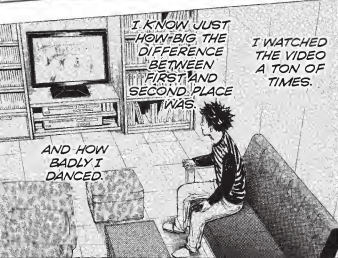
IT'S
ALMOST
THE SAME
AS WHAT
I HAD AT
THE TENPEI
CUP!

312

TA
DA!

23







**HOLD ON,
WHAT?!**



**OH,
OKAY!**



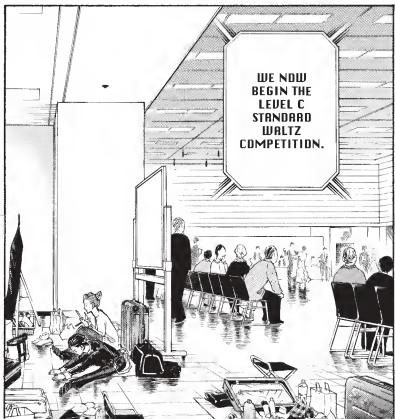
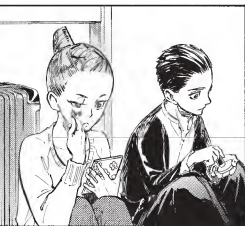
**WE JUST
HAVE TO GET
SECOND
PLACE.**



**NOVICE
LEVEL
IS...**



**SECOND
PLACE
MEANS
BEATING
WHO,
EXACTLY?!**

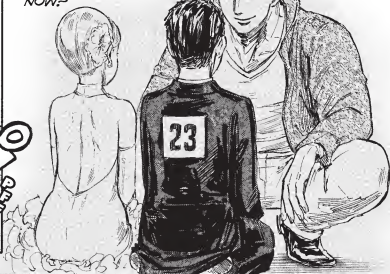




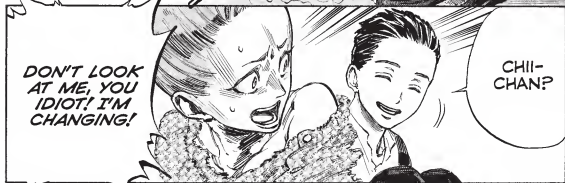
YOU TALK ABOUT GOIN' TO THE GRAND PRIX, AND YOU THINK YOU'RE GONNA GET BEAT BY NOVICES? WHAT A LITTLE TURD!

WHAT ADVICE WOULD HE GIVE ME RIGHT NOW?

IF SENGOKU-SAN WERE HERE...



IF HE SAID THAT, I THINK I'D CRY.



DON'T LOOK AT ME, YOU IDIOT! I'M CHANGING!

CHII-CHAN?



COME ON, NO...

WAIT, WHAT?



!

...?

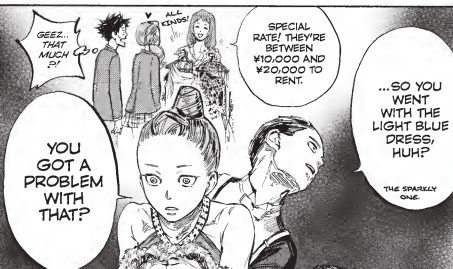
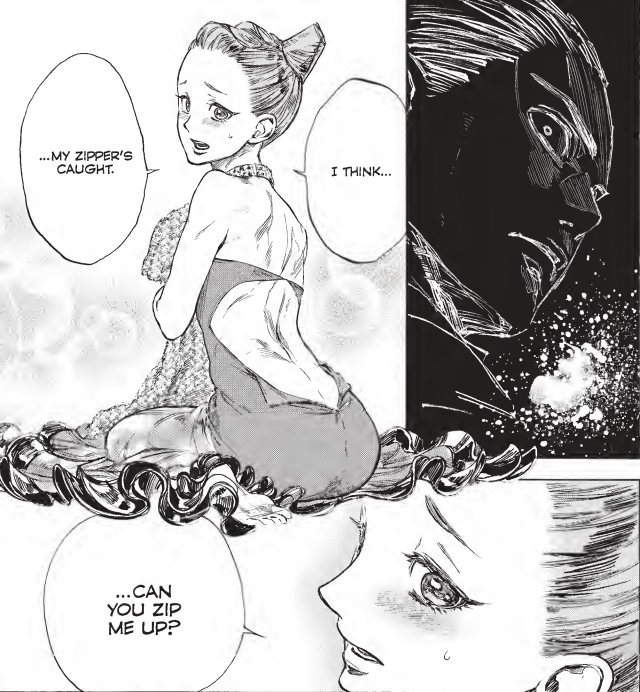


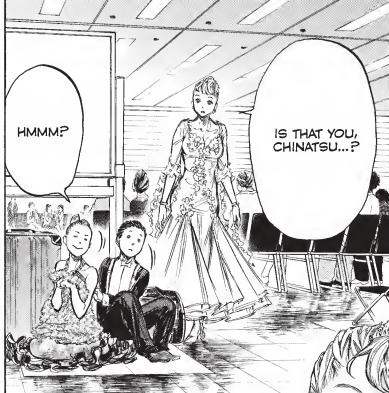
WHY DON'T THEY HAVE SEPARATE DRESSING ROOMS FOR MEN AND WOMEN AT THESE COMPETITIONS?!



TATARA...

TA...





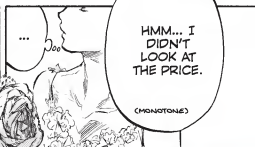
HMMM?

IS THAT YOU,
CHINATSU...?



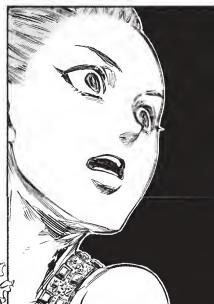
...ISN'T THAT
THE ONE
THAT WAS
¥20,000?

I'M PAYING
HALF, RIGHT?



HMM... I
DIDN'T
LOOK AT
THE PRICE.

(MONOTONE)





WHAT
LEVEL
ARE
YOU?

SO YOU TWO
ENTERED
TODAY, TOO!
WHAT A CO-
INCIDENCE!

WOW,
AKIRA-SAN!
YOU LOOK
TOTALLY
DIFFERENT!

A-
AKI...?!

WE'RE
NOVICES!

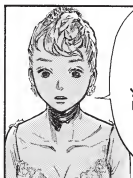
YOU
DIDN'T
HAVE TO
TELL HER
THAT!

LUNGE

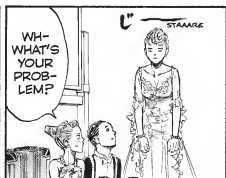


BOIP

!!

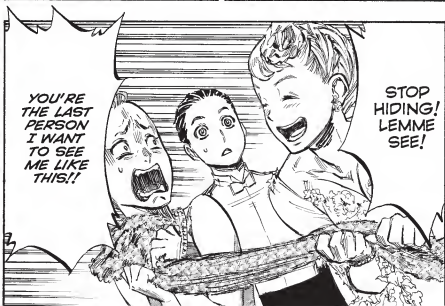


DOES THAT
MEAN THAT
THIS IS
YOUR DEBUT
IN A DRESS,
CHINATSU?



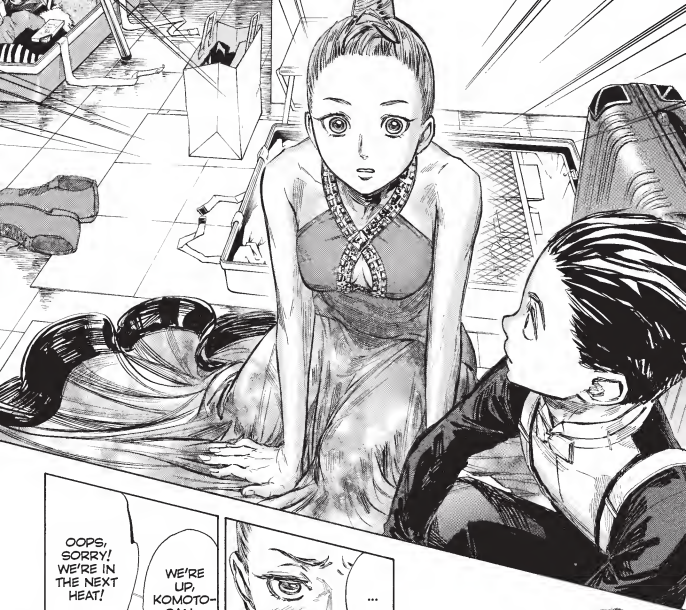
WH-
WHAT'S
YOUR PRO-
BLEM?

STAAARE



YOU'RE
THE LAST
PERSON
I WANT
TO SEE
ME LIKE
THIS!!

STOP
HIDING!
LEMME
SEE!



OOPS,
SORRY!
WE'RE IN
THE NEXT
HEAT!

WE'RE
UP,
KOMOTO-
SAN...



YOU
ARE?



GO
AWAY!!

OH,
YOU'RE
SO
CUTE...





WOO-O-

"LEVEL
B"?"!



WE WILL NOW
BEGIN THE LEVEL
B STANDARD
COMPETITION.



CAN YOU
BELIEVE
THE GUY
I TEAMED
UP WITH
IS EVEN
CLUMSIER
THAN YOU?



THAT...



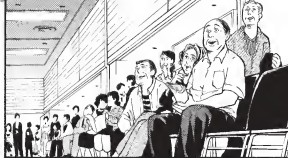
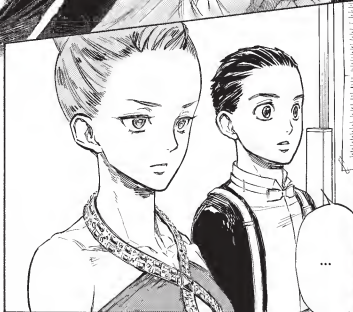
HER
LEADER...

HE'S THE
GUY I
NOTICED
DURING THE
SECOND
ROUND
TANGO.

THAT
FACE...



...WAS A
COMPLETE
LIE...!



SHE'S SO
AWFUL...



WE WILL
NOW BEGIN
THE NOVICE
SEMIFINALS.



SO THIS IS
WHAT THE
NOVICE LEVEL
IS LIKE...

BATH-
ROOM
TIME
FOR ME.

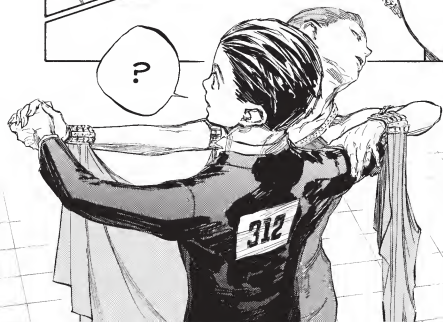
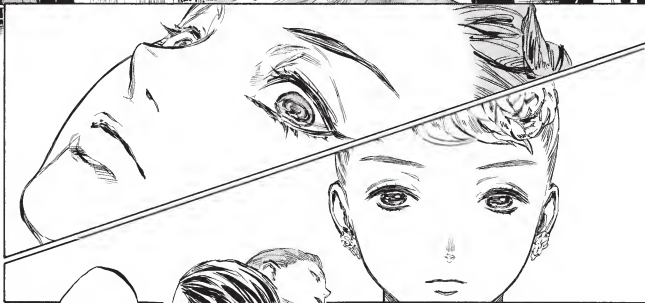
WANT
TO GET
SOME
FOOD?



HOLD
IT.



ALL THE
OTHER
TEAMS
ARE OLD
PEOPLE,
SO THAT'S
GOOD AT
LEAST...



MY
MOVEMENTS
TODAY ARE
GONNA BE
BIGGER THAN
USUAL.

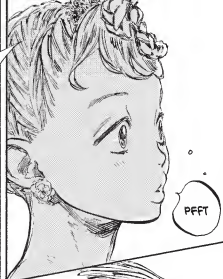
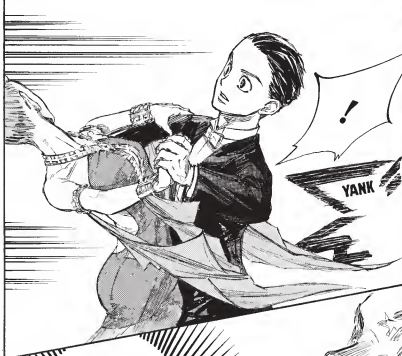


SET...

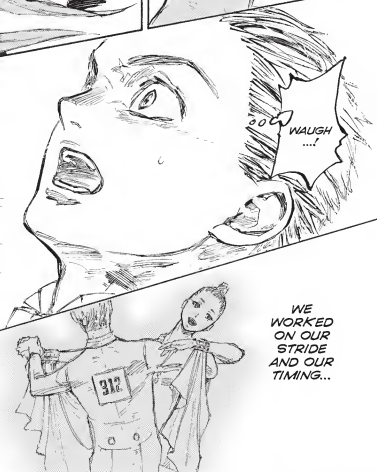
READY...

OKAY.

GO!

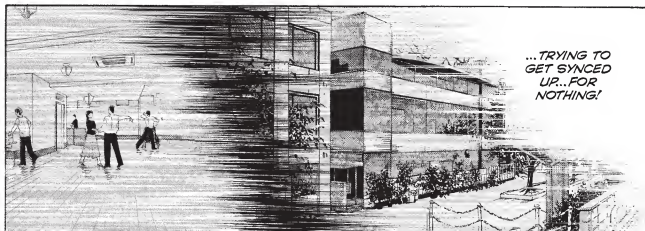


HER STEPS
ARE WAY,
WAY BIGGER
THAN I
THOUGHT!



...THE LAST
TWO WEEKS...

WE
WORKED
ON OUR
STRIDE
AND OUR
TIMING...



...TRYING TO
GET SYNCED
UP...FOR
NOTHING!



YOU'RE
GIVING
TOO
MANY
ORDERS

...
EVERY
SINGLE
THING...

IF OUR
MOVEMENTS
AREN'T
MATCHED UP
PERFECTLY,
IT'LL LOOK
LIKE OUR
TEAM HAS
NO UNITY.

THAT'S
DEFINITELY
TRUE,
BUT...



YOU'RE
DRAWING
ME
IN TOO
SOON!

IT'S
COMPACTING
THE SPIN!

IF WE DO
IT EXACTLY
LIKE WE
PRACTICED...

WE'LL PUT
EVERYTHING
TOGETHER
LIKE WE
TALKED
ABOUT.



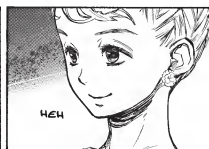
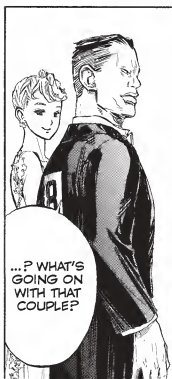
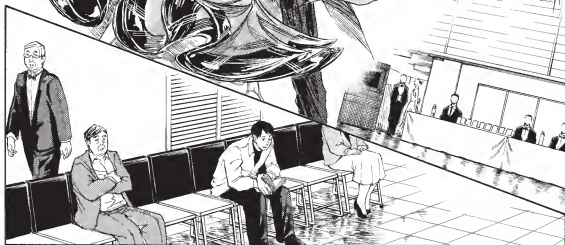
AND HER
DRESS
IS WAY
HEAVIER
THAN I
EXPECTED—

I DON'T
THINK
WE'RE
SYNCING
UP EVEN A
LITTLE BIT!

...WE
SHOULD
BE ABLE
TO WIN
A NOVICE
MATCH NO
PROBLEM!



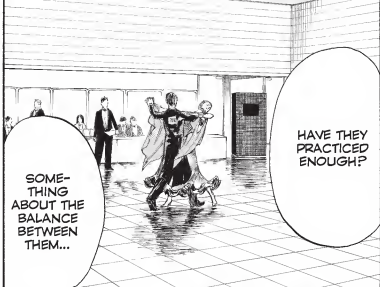
THE
MOMENTUM
IS SPINNING
ME AROUND!



MINÉ-SAN!
DID YOU
KNOW THE
LADY WITH
NO. 312
IS MY OLD
PARTNER?

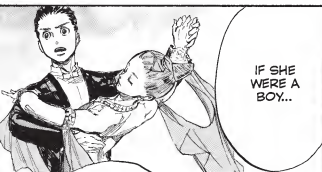


IT'S LIKE
IT'S TWO
MEN,
DON'T YOU
THINK?



SOME-
THING
ABOUT THE
BALANCE
BETWEEN
THEM...

HAVE THEY
PRACTICED
ENOUGH?



IF SHE
WERE A
BOY...



...SHE
WOULDN'T
HAVE TO
LANGUISH IN
A MATCH LIKE
THIS. SHE
COULD TACKLE
THE RANKING
MATCHES.



IT'S
BECAUSE
CHINATSU
THINKS
SHE HAS
THE "RIGHT
DANCE"
DEEP INSIDE
HER.

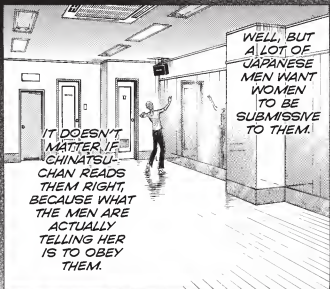
SHE'LL
NEVER
SUBMIT
TO A MAN
WHO'S
BENEATH
HER.



A LOT OF THE
TIME, SHE WAS
THE REASON
WE WON.



"I HEARD
ANOTHER ONE
OF CHINATSU-
CHAN'S MEET-
UPS FELL
THROUGH."



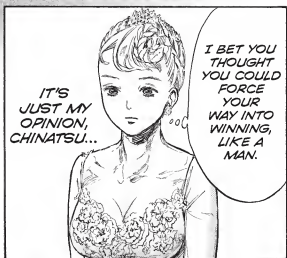
IT DOESN'T
MATTER IF
CHINATSU-
CHAN READS
THEM RIGHT,
BECAUSE WHAT
THE MEN ARE
ACTUALLY
TELLING HER
IS TO OBEY
THEM.

WELL, BUT
A LOT OF
JAPANESE
MEN WANT
WOMEN
TO BE
SUBMISSIVE
TO THEM.



WHAT?
BUT SHE
PRACTICES
THE
LADY'S
PART!

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
IT IS, BUT
WHEN SHE
TRIES TO
FOLLOW A
MAN'S LEAD,
HER FORM
BREAKS
DOWN.

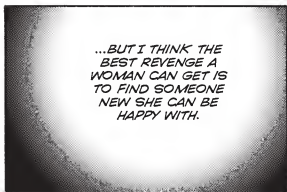


IT'S
JUST MY
OPINION,
CHINATSU...

I BET YOU
THOUGHT
YOU COULD
FORCE
YOUR
WAY INTO
WINNING,
LIKE A
MAN.

SHE ISN'T
USED TO
FOLLOWING,
AFTER ALL.

AND IN
THE END,
CHINATSU-
CHAN WOULD
ALWAYS BE
DIMINISHED
BY THAT.



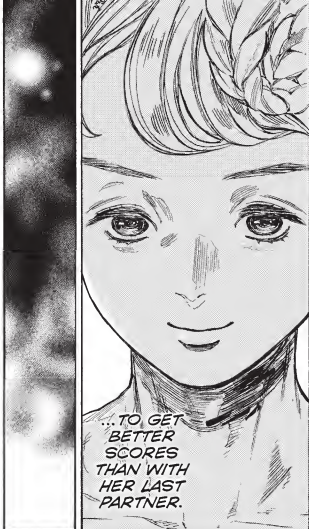
...BUT I THINK THE
BEST REVENGE A
WOMAN CAN GET IS
TO FIND SOMEONE
NEW SHE CAN BE
HAPPY WITH.





RIGHT
NOW...

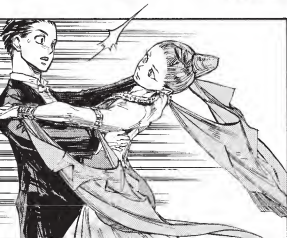
I'D
LOVE
TO
BEAT
YOU!



...TO GET
BETTER
SCORES
THAN WITH
HER LAST
PARTNER.



TWITCH

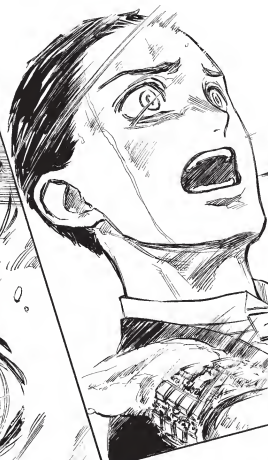


WHAT
A SILLY
THING TO
SAY TO
NOVICES!

GO 312!
SEE YOU
IN THE
GRAND
PRIX!

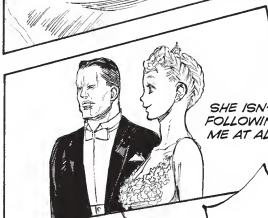


IT'S
LIKE—



STAGGER

SHE'S
JUST
DOING
WHATEVER
SHE
WANTS...



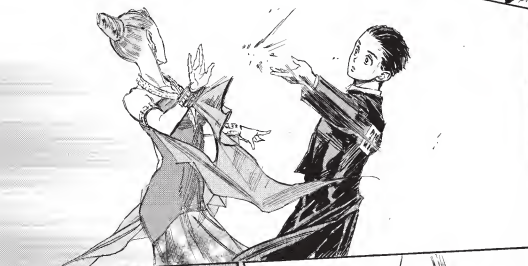
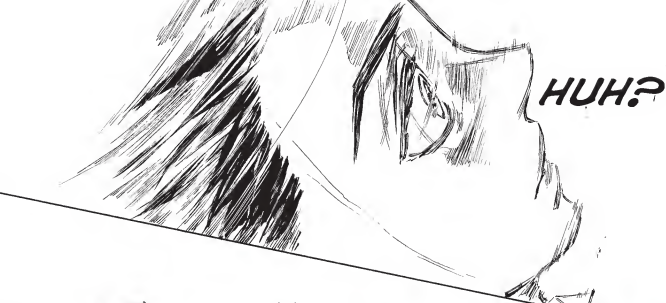
SHE ISN'T
FOLLOWING
ME AT ALL.



THAT
STEP
BACK...









**SHE WAS
PUSHING
ME AROUND
WITH HER
PELVIS!!**



PHEW



**WE WILL NOW
BEGIN THE SECOND
STYLE: TANGO.**



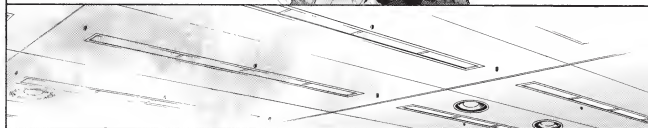
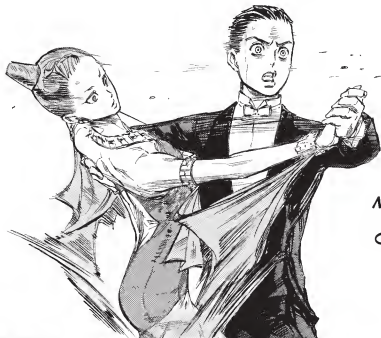
**AS A
COUPLE,
WE'RE A
BUST.**

**THERE'S NO
LEADING, NO
FOLLOWING.**

**DANCING
LIKE
THIS**

RIGHT
AT THE
START,
AS
NOVICES!

WE
MIGHT
BE
OUT—



WE CAN'T
JUST DO
EXACTLY
WHAT WE
PRACTICED.
NOT WITH
OTHER
PEOPLE
OUT THERE,
TOO!

C'MON!

AFTER
WE DID
ALL THAT
WORK TO
GET IN
STEP
BEFORE
THE
MATCH...



SERIOUSLY!
THE FLOOR
WAS SO BIG,
I JUST HAD
TO MAKE
BIGGER
MOVES!

ナナナ



LOOK, I'M
SORRY!

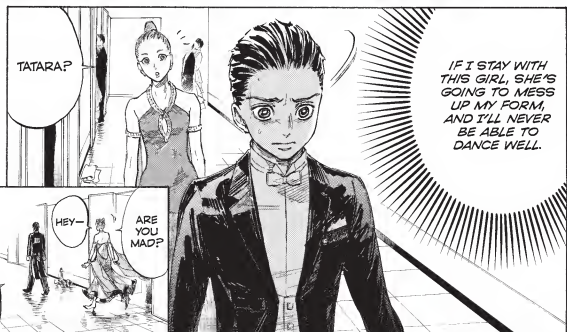
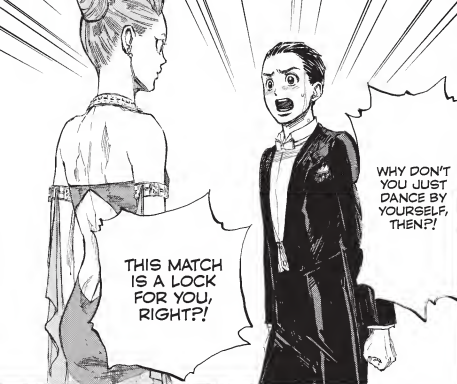
YOU'RE GOOD
AT SYNCING
UP, TATARA!
JUST COVER
FOR ME!

BUT
WHEN
YOU
START
DANCING
HOWEVER
YOU
WANT...



NO DANCING
NO DANCING





NO.	DECISION	POINTS	RANK
305	CALL	14	1
306		8	7
307		1	12
308		7	9
309		10	6
310		4	10
311	—	8	7
312	CALL	14	1
313	—	3	11
314	CALL	14	1

"CALL"!!! WE
ADVANCED!

WHAT?

AND WE
GOT FIRST
PLACE...

CH...
CHII-
CHAN,
WE
MADE IT
TO—

OH, RIGHT...
IF THERE'S
ONLY TWO
STYLES, IT'S
HARD TO
GET EXTRA
POINTS, I
GUESS...

GEEZ...

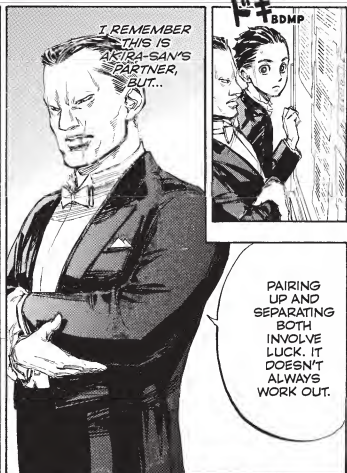
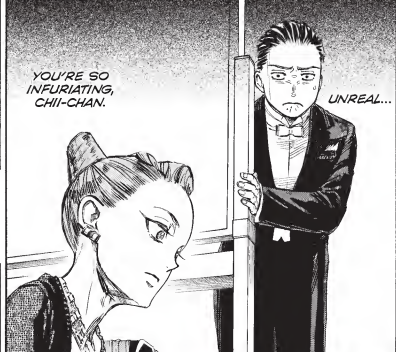
SHE'S
FIXING HER
MAKE-UP!
SHE JUST
ASSUMED
WE'D
ADVANCE!

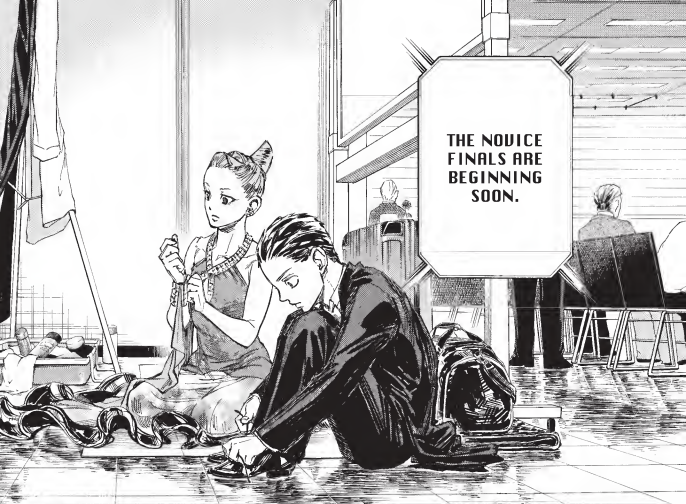
SEMIFINALS Score Summary
Competition: DSCJ Novice Standard Competition
Date: June 2 Site: Sumida Building

SCAAAAAN

NO	DECISION	POINTS	RANK	WT
305	CALL	14	1	WT
306	—	8	7	WT
307	—	1	12	WT
308	—	7	9	WT
309	CALL	10	6	WT
310	—	4	10	WT
311	—	8	7	WT
312	CALL	14	1	WT
313	—	3	11	WT
314	CALL	11	5	WT
315	CALL	14	1	WT
316	CALL	14	1	WT

...WITH
FOUR
OTHER
TEAMS
?!





THE NOVICE
FINALS ARE
BEGINNING
SOON.

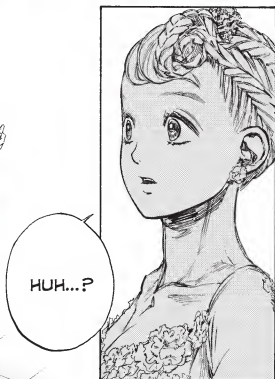
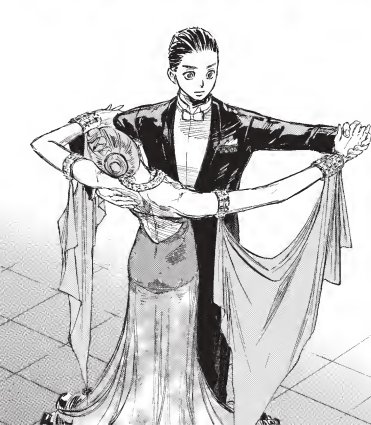
BUT SHE
DOES
WHATEVER
SHE WANTS.

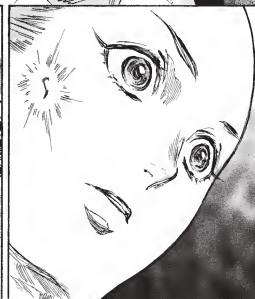
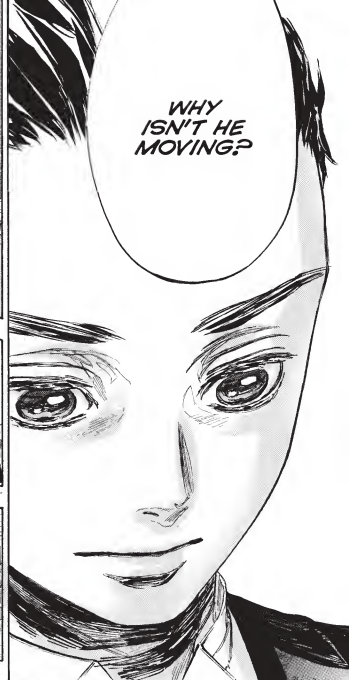
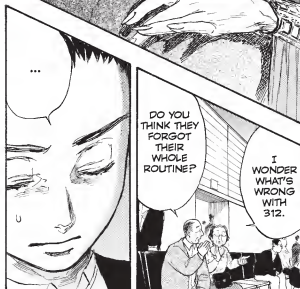
SO SHE
SAYS...

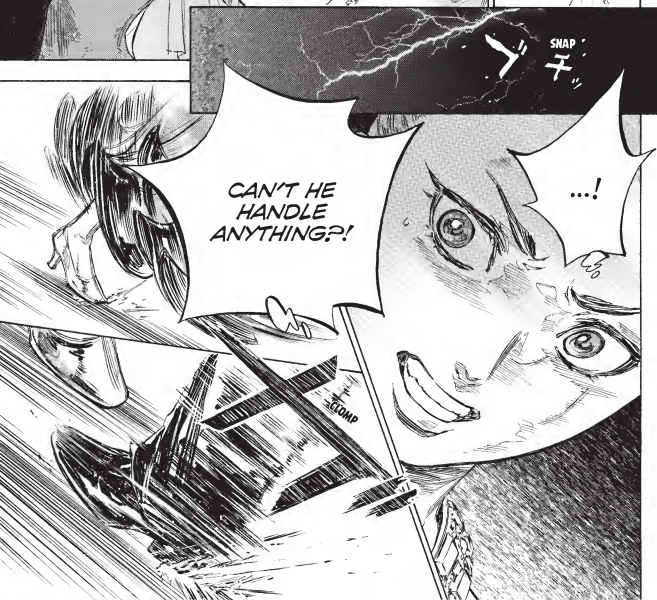
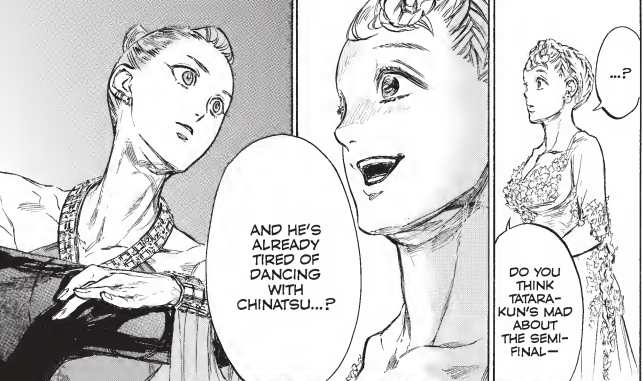
...

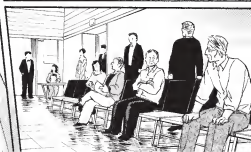
WE'LL STAY
IN STEP THIS
TIME!

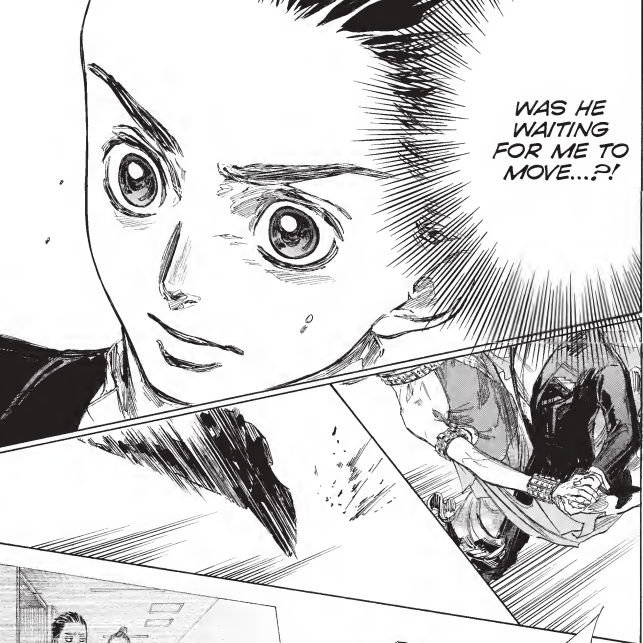




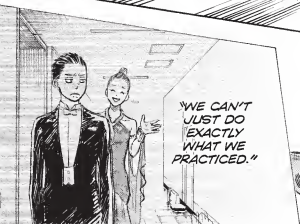








WAS HE
WAITING
FOR ME TO
MOVE...?!

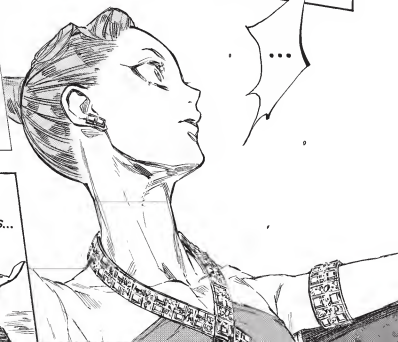


"WE CAN'T
JUST DO
EXACTLY
WHAT WE
PRACTICED."



TOTALLY
RIGHT.

SHE'S...



...



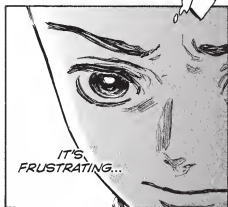
THE ONLY
TIME WE
WERE EVER
'SUITED'
TO EACH
OTHER...

WE NEVER HAD
ANY CHEMISTRY
IN THE LEAD
AND FOLLOW.

HOW
COULD I
EXPECT
CHII-CHAN
TO FALL
INTO STEP
WITH ME?



...

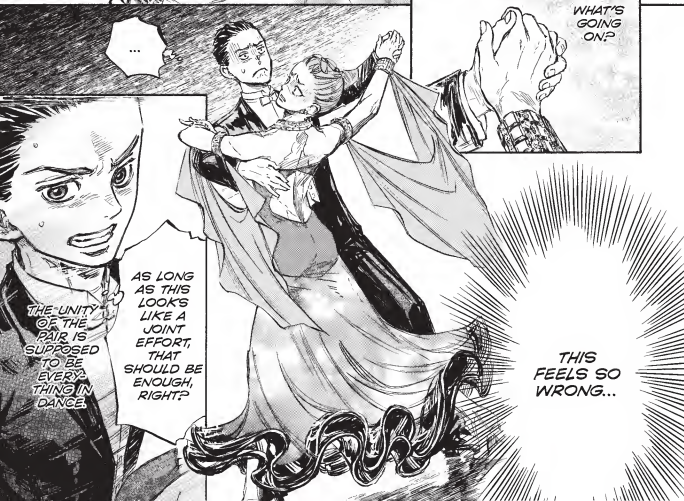
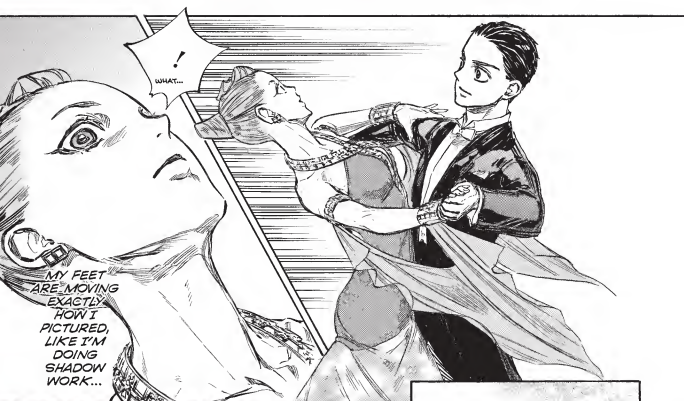


IT'S
FRUSTRATING...



...WAS
THEN.

BUT I'LL WORK WITH IT.



IT LOOKS
A LOT LIKE
WALKING
SIDWAYS.

ROTATE LEFT
FOR THE
FALLAWAY
REVERSE,
AND ON THE
SECOND STEP
REVERSE INTO
PP—

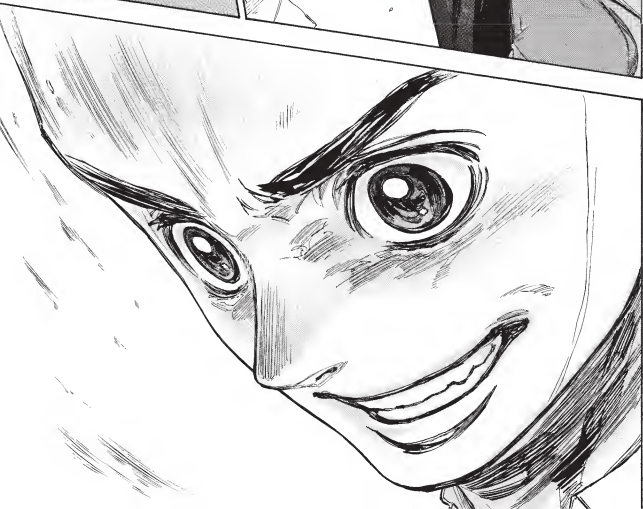
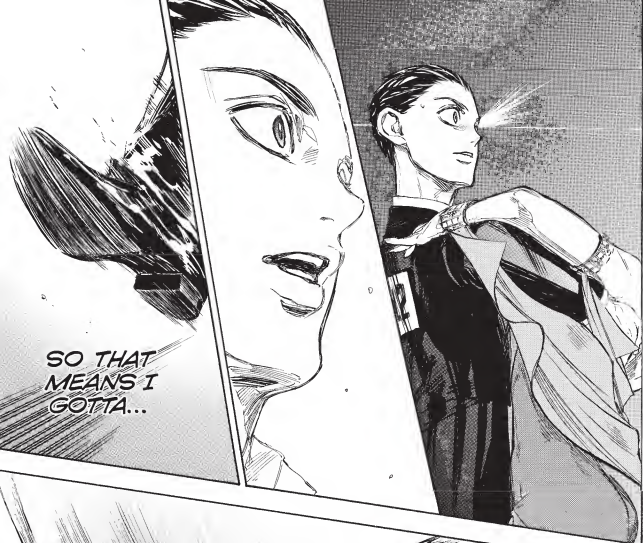
ONE,
TWO,
AND—

THREE.

*FALLAWAY REVERSE AND SLIP PIVOT

AS BIG
AS YOU
CAN.

NOW,
KICK
OUT.





**I
GOTTA
STEP
IN.**

Heat 24: END

WELCOME
TO THE BALLROOM



SKWIK

AS LONG
AS MY
PARTNER
MOVES
FREELY...

...TAKE
A LONG
STEP...

...I CAN
SPEED UP
JUST A
LITTLE...

LO
TWITCH

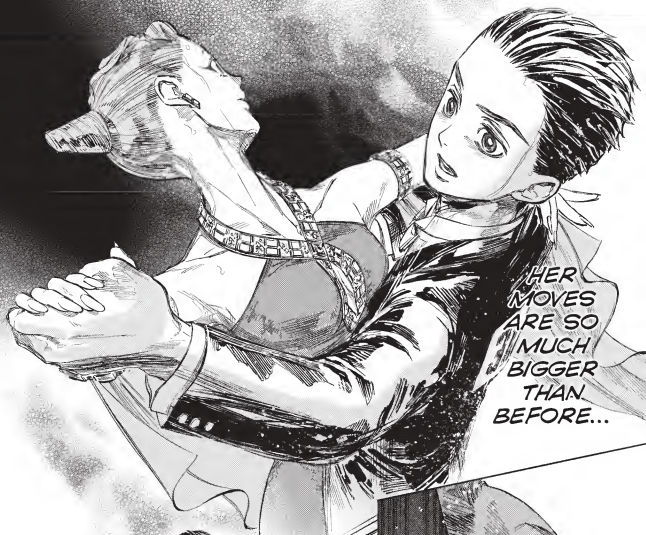


...AND WALK
AROUND SO
IT AT LEAST
LOOKS LIKE
I'M LEADING!

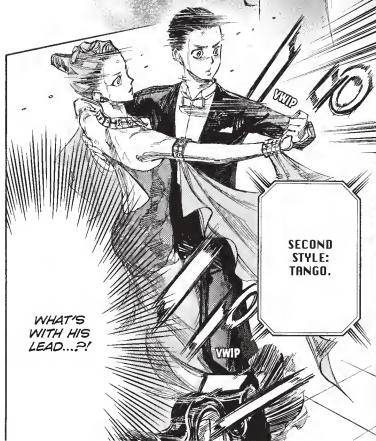
HOW CAN
CHINATSU BE
DANCING SO
SMOOTHLY?

NOT TO
MENTION...

Heat 25
So Sneaky

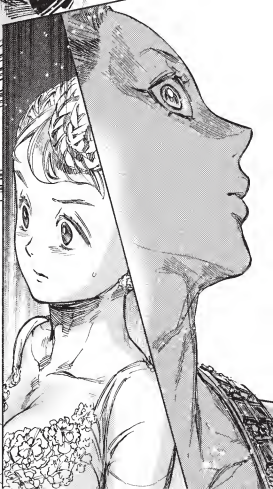


HER
MOVES
ARE SO
MUCH
BIGGER
THAN
BEFORE...



SECOND
STYLE:
TANGO.

WHAT'S
WITH HIS
LEAD...?!



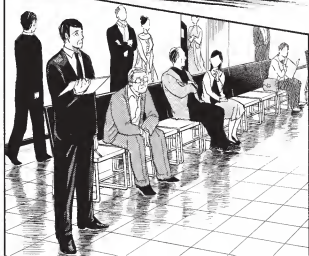
THAT'S A
PRETTY
STRANGE
THING FOR
A COUPLE
TO DO.

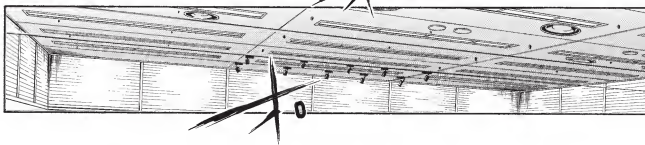
BUT FOR
THE TWO US,
RIGHT NOW—

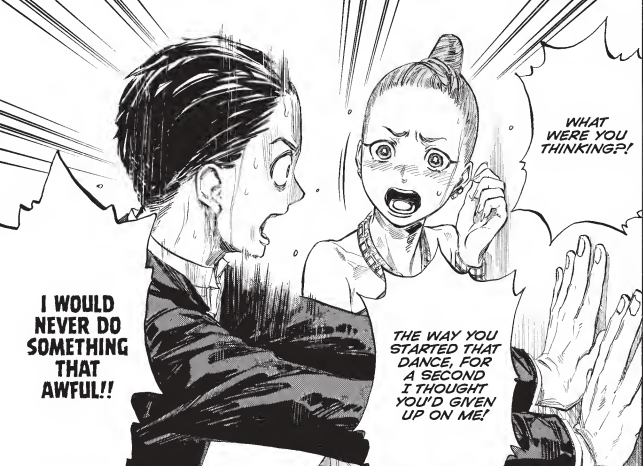
THE MAN
EXCLUSIVELY
FOLLOWING
THE LADY'S
LEAD.

DID WE
GET
OUT OF
STEPP!?

AS MUCH AS IT
BOTHERS ME,
IT'S THE BEST
WE CAN DO...!







**I WOULD
NEVER DO
SOMETHING
THAT
AWFUL!!**

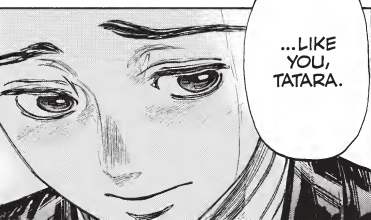
**WHAT
WERE YOU
THINKING?!**

**THE WAY YOU
STARTED THAT
DANCE, FOR
A SECOND
I THOUGHT
YOU'D GIVEN
UP ON ME!**



THERE'S
NOT MANY
GUYS...

...

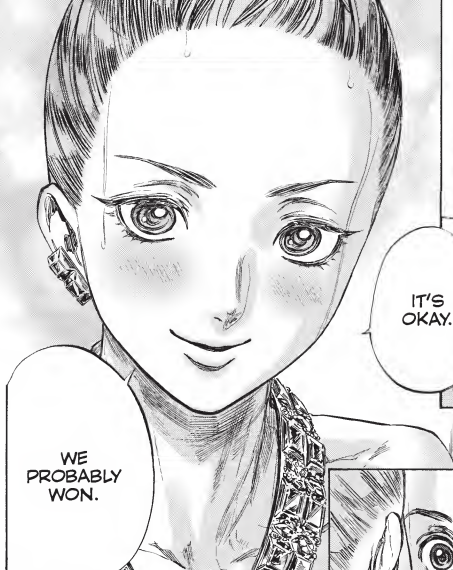


...LIKE
YOU,
TATARA.



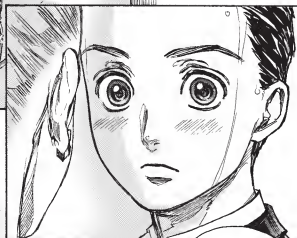
WH...WHAT
ELSE CAN
WE DO?

IF I'D MADE
THE FIRST
MOVE, IT
WOULD'VE
JUST
MESSED UP
YOUR PACE.



WE
PROBABLY
WON.

IT'S
OKAY.



WHAT'S
THAT
LOOK
FOR?!

YOU
REALLY
THINK
SO?

AFTER ALL,
YOU WERE
SO...

...BUT FROM
WHAT I
SAW IN THE
SEMIFINALS,
NO ONE'S
GONNA
GIVE US A
CHALLENGE.

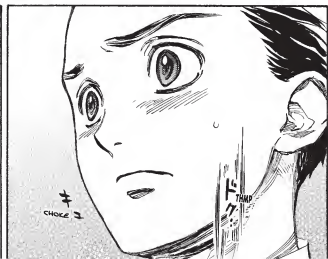
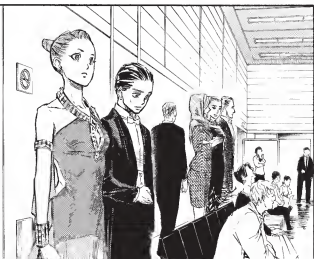
I DIDN'T SEE
THE WAY
THE OTHER
COUPLES
IN OUR
HEAT WERE
DANCING...

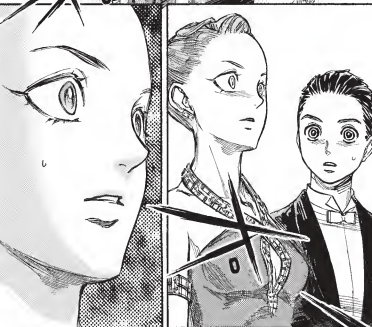
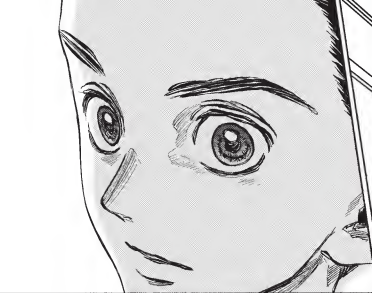




THE
WINNERS
WILL
PERFORM
THE HONOR
DANCE; A
WALTZ.

THE JUDGES
HAVE
DETERMINED
THE WINNERS
OF THE NOVICE
STANDARD.





FIRST
PLACE—
ENTRY
NUMBER 316:
MASAMI
KUGIMIYA
AND TAMIE
IDOGAWA.



IS THAT
TATARA
FUJITA-
KUN I
SEE?

TOK

TOK

HUH...IS
THAT...?

...!

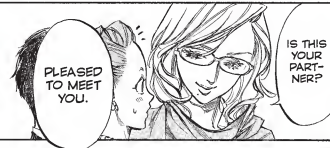
HYODO-
KUN'S
MOTHER...?

WHAT A
COINCIDENCE
RUNNING
INTO YOU
HERE.

HAVEN'T
SEEN YOU IN
A WHILE.



THEY WERE
IN YOUR
SEMIFINAL
HEAT.



PLEASED
TO MEET
YOU.

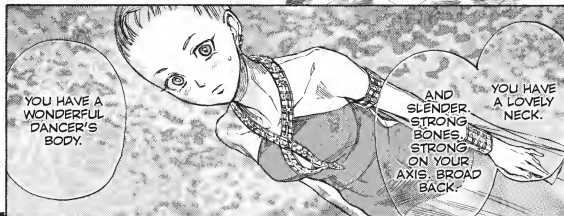
IS THIS
YOUR
PART-
NER?



REAL-
LY?!

THE
COUPLE
DOING
THE
HONOR
DANCE,
ACTUALLY.

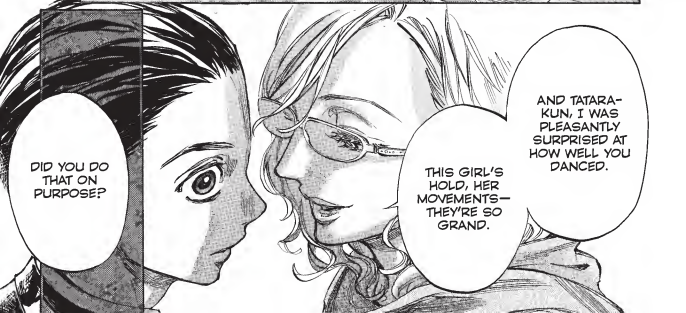
I'M HERE
TO CHEER
ON MY
STUDENTS.



YOU HAVE A
WONDERFUL
DANCER'S
BODY.

AND
SLENDER.
STRONG
BONES.
STRONG
ON YOUR
AXIS. BROAD
BACK.

YOU HAVE
A LOVELY
NECK.



DID YOU DO
THAT ON
PURPOSE?

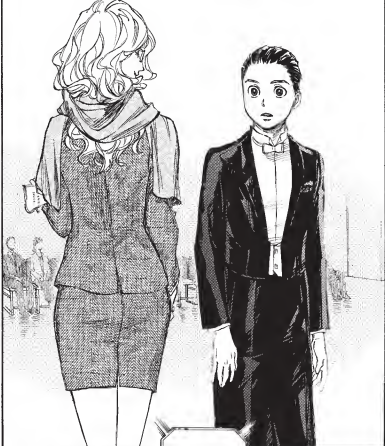
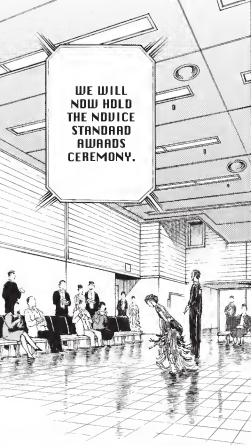
THIS GIRL'S
HOLD, HER
MOVEMENTS—
THEY'RE SO
GRAND.

AND TATARA-
KUN, I WAS
PLEASANTLY
SURPRISED AT
HOW WELL YOU
DANCED.

**DUMPING
ALL THE
WORK OFF
ON THE
GIRL—THAT
WAS SNEAKY
OF YOU!**

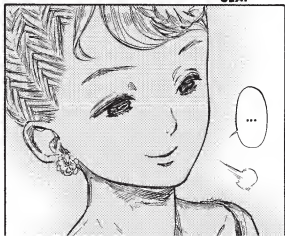
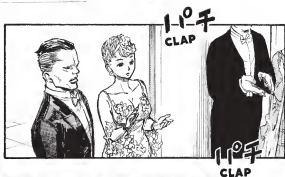
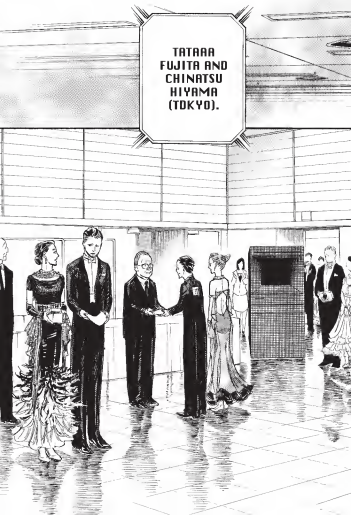


WE WILL
NOW HOLD
THE NOVICE
STANDARD
AWARDS
CEREMONY.



RUNNER
UP: ENTRY
NUMBER
312-

TATARA
FUJITA AND
CHINATSU
HIYAMA
(TOKYO).



THE FIRST PLACE COUPLE WAS INCREDIBLY GOOD, THOUGH! DON'T FEEL BAD.

WHAAP
130
RUNNER-UP, HUH? TOO BAD!

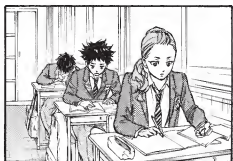
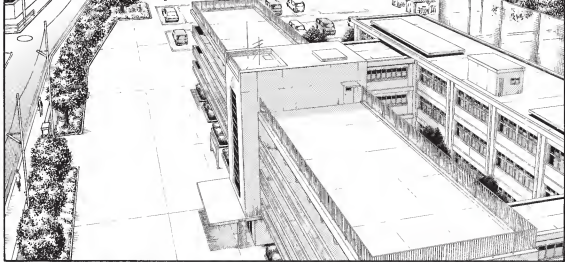
ARE YOU EVER GONNA SHUT THAT NASTY MOUTH OF YOURS?!

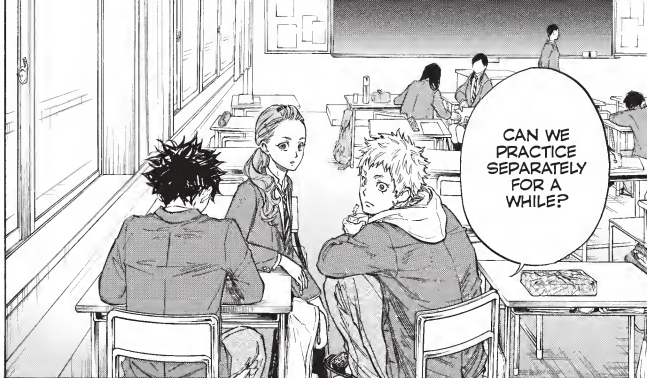
NEXT, WE WILL BEGIN THE LEVEL C STANDARD SEMIFINALS.

FIRST HEAT.

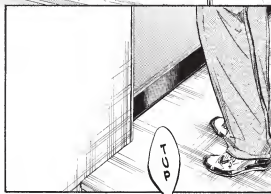
THE FIRST AND SECOND PLACE COUPLES ARE NOW ADVANCED TO "LEVEL D."

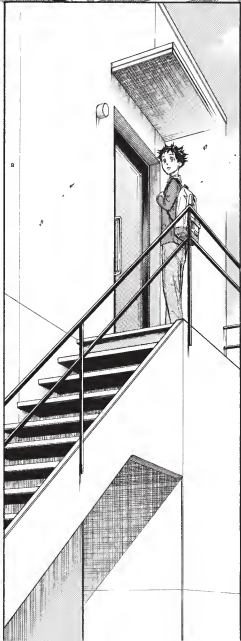
312

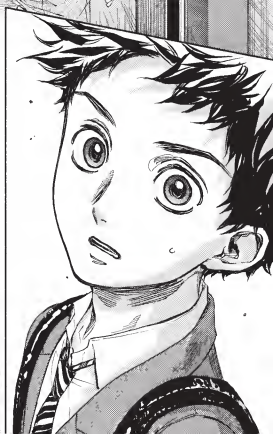












I
BROUGHT
A
VISITOR.

YOU NEVER
COME IN
THE FRONT
DOOR!

OH!

DON'T
MIND
ME!

A VISI-
TOR...

NO, I
DIDN'T
COME HERE
TO SEE
HANAOKA-
SAN...

!!

IF YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR
SHIZUKU,
SHE'S
PROBABLY
NOT COMING
UNTIL
TONIGHT.

KAS
CHACK

GEEZ—
EVERYONE
HERE IS
SO GOOD-
LOOKING!

AND
THEY'RE
NOT
PUSHY AT
ALL!

THEY'RE SO
CONFIDENT...

FEEL FREE
TO LOOK
AROUND!

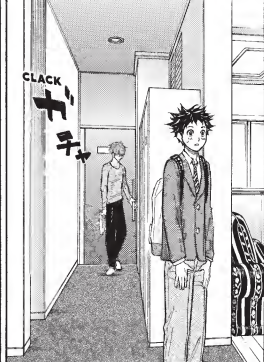
HELLO!

!

おどろおどろ
おどろおどろ

WHERE'S
MARISA
HYODO-
SENSEI...







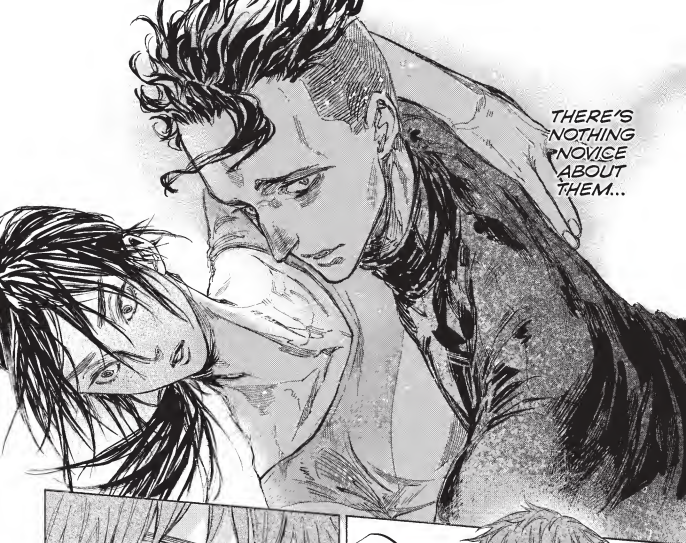
KUGIMIYA...?

WHAT
...?

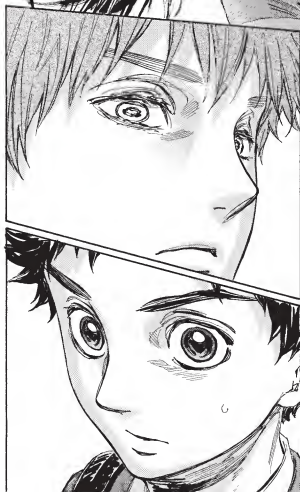
SHWOOP

IS THAT THE
COUPLE FROM
YESTERDAY...?!





THERE'S
NOTHING
NOVICE
ABOUT
THEM...

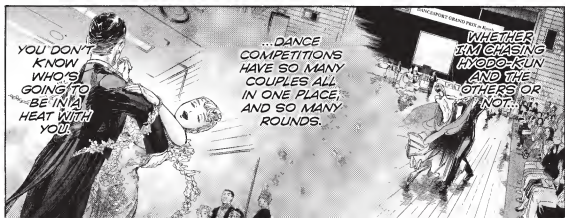
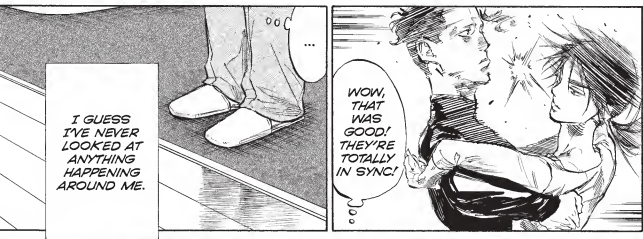
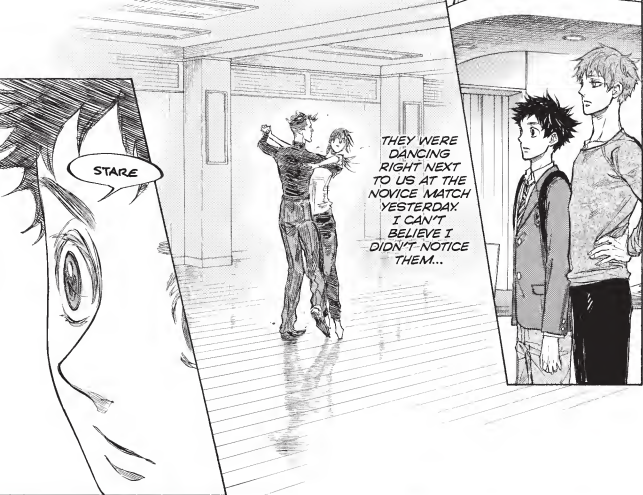


!

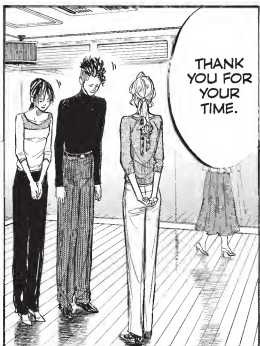
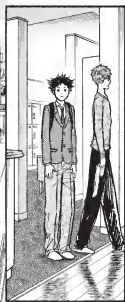
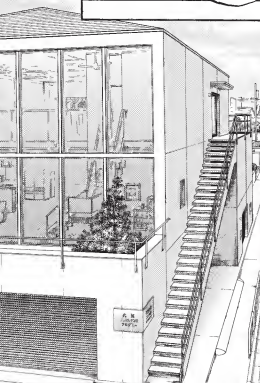
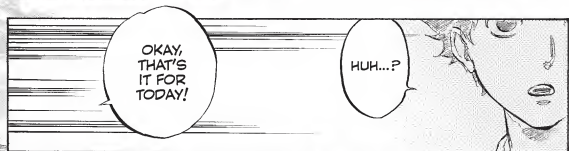
THEY HAD TO
WITHDRAW
FROM
COMPETITION
BECAUSE OF
AN INJURY.

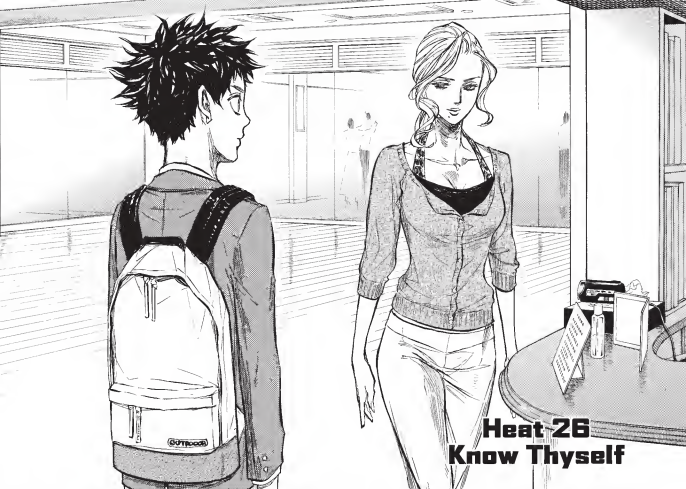
PRETTY
SURE
THEY'RE
GOING TO
SHOW UP AT
THE MIKASA
THIS YEAR.



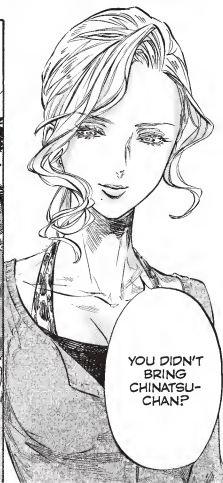








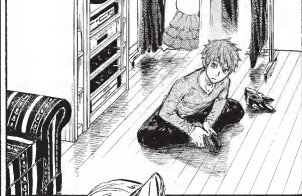
Heat 26
Know Thyself





! I ONLY DID THAT AS A LAST RESORT ...!

I ONLY SAID THAT BECAUSE OF HOW YOU FOLLOWED YOUR PARTNER IN THAT MATCH. THAT'S ALL.



OH THAT...

IS THAT WHY YOU CAME?



I KNEW I WAS FLIPPING THE NORMAL LEAD AND FOLLOW ROLES, BUT STILL...

...I FIGURED I HAD TO BE THE ONE TO SYNC UP WITH HER...



I THOUGHT YOU UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LEADER'S SKILL.

HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED ANYTHING FROM GETTING LAST PLACE AT THE TENPEI CUP?



SIGH...

THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING OFF ABOUT YOU.



IN A TYPICAL
COUPLE, THE
WOMAN IS
SUBORDINATE
TO THE MAN.

KUGIMIYA-
KUN HAS
BEEN HIGHLY
RATED SINCE
HE WAS IN
JUNIORS.

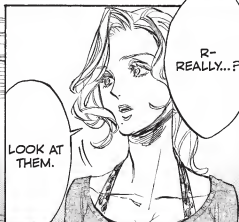
ASIDE FROM THE HEATS
FOR HIS TENDRY, OF
COURSE.

HIS PARTNER
HAS LESS
EXPERIENCE,
BUT HIS LEAD
CAN COVER
FOR HER LACK
OF SKILL.



LOOK AT
THEM.

R-
REALLY...?



YOU DON'T
LIKE THAT
STYLE OF
LEAD?



SORRY.
CAN WE
DO IT
AGAIN?



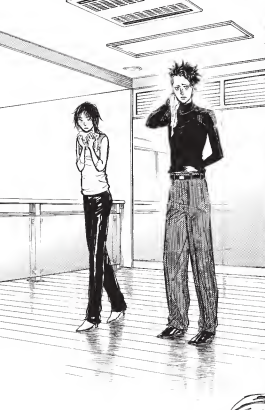
...

SOOOZ...

HOW ABOUT
YOU JUST
WAKE UP
AND FOLLOW
MY LEAD?



MUTTER
YOU
MESSED
THAT PART
UP.



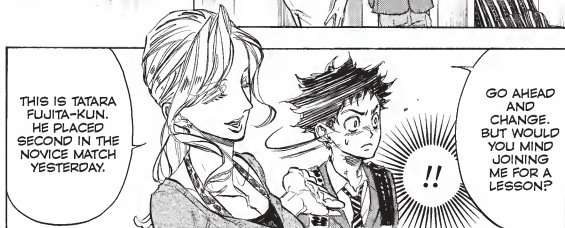
KUGIMIYA-KUN, ARE YOU DONE?

! NO, NO, I WASN'T...!



THIS IS TATARA FUJITA-KUN. HE PLACED SECOND IN THE NOVICE MATCH YESTERDAY.

GO AHEAD AND CHANGE. BUT WOULD YOU MIND JOINING ME FOR A LESSON?



WHY SO SURPRISED? IT'S NOT UNUSUAL AT ALL.

DANCE WITH TWO MEN?!

KUGIMIYA-KUN IS GOOD AT FOLLOWING, TOO.

BUT...!



I'D LIKE YOU TWO TO PAIR UP AND TRY DANCING SOMETHING BASIC. ANYTHING REALLY.



AND HE
JUST
FINISHED
HIS
LESSON. I
BET HE'S
TIRED...

HE LOOKS
SUPER
ANNOYED.



OH! BUT YOU
NEVER WANT
TO DANCE
WITH ANYONE
BUT SHIZUKU-
CHAN.

WHAT...!
HE'S VOLUN-
TEERING!

...WANT ME
TO SUB IN
INSTEAD?

AS THE
FOLLOWER.

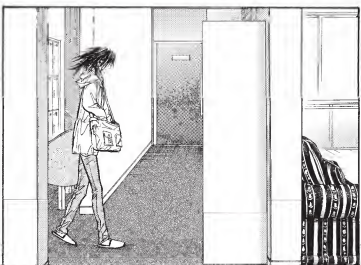
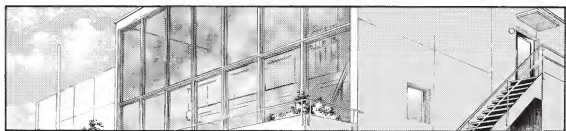


I'M
INTERESTED
TO SEE
FUJITA'S
LEAD.

CLACK



YEAH.





HE'S
GIGAN-
TIC!

UH...

I THINK
HE'S EVEN
TALLER
THAN
GAJU-
KUN!

UM,
SORRY?!

FOR BEING
SO SHORT.

TO BE
HONEST,
THE WAY
HE LEADS
BOTHERS
ME A LOT.

BUT
HYODO-
KUN SAID
HE'S
GOOD.

KUGIMIYA-
KUN, COULD
YOU BEND
YOUR KNEES
A LITTLE? YOU'RE
SMOTHERING
POOR TATARA-
KUN.

SO I HAVE
TO BE
DECISIVE
WHEN I
MOVE MY
LEGS!.

HERE
WE
GO!

HE'S
TALL,
SO HIS
LEGS
ARE
GONNA
BE
REALLY
LONG,
TOO.

OH.
OKAY.

DO
WHATEVER
YOU WANT.

SO
UH, I'M
GONNA
START
WITH A
NATURAL
TURN AND
THEN GO
INTO A
SPIN...



OR ELSE
WE WON'T
BE A
BALANCED
COUPLE!



HE'S
REACT-
ING!

SKWIK



WHY ARE
YOU SO
INTERESTED
IN TATARA-
KUN'S
LEAD?

KIYO-
HARU-



SQUEEZE



**HOW MUCH
SHOULD I
MOVE IN
THIS NEXT
PART?!**



**BECAUSE
IT ISN'T
A LEAD.**



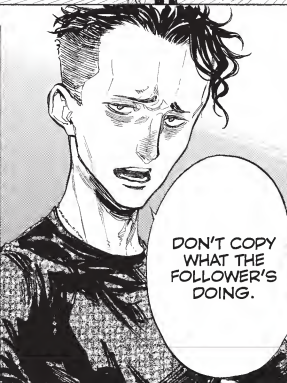


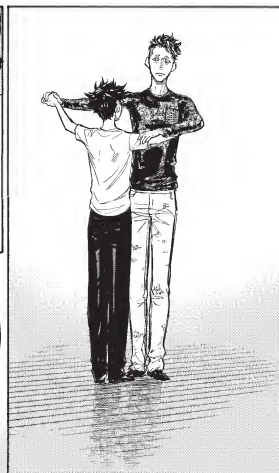
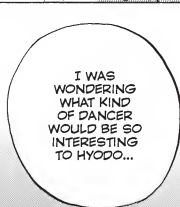
HEY,
FUJITA-
KUN.



WHY
ARE YOU
TRYING
TO READ
ME?









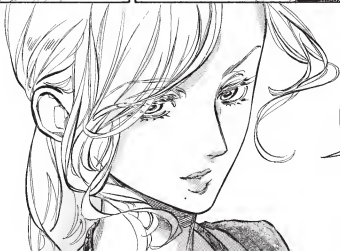
**...BUT
YOU'RE
GARBAGE.**



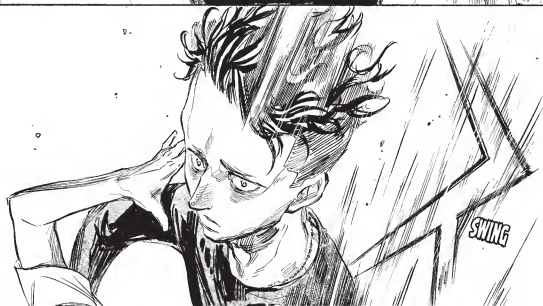
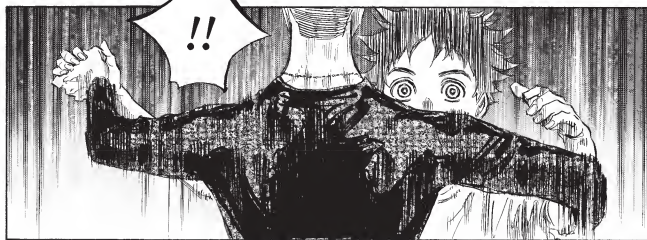
**MARISA-
SENSEI,
CAN I TAKE
OVER THE
LEAD?**

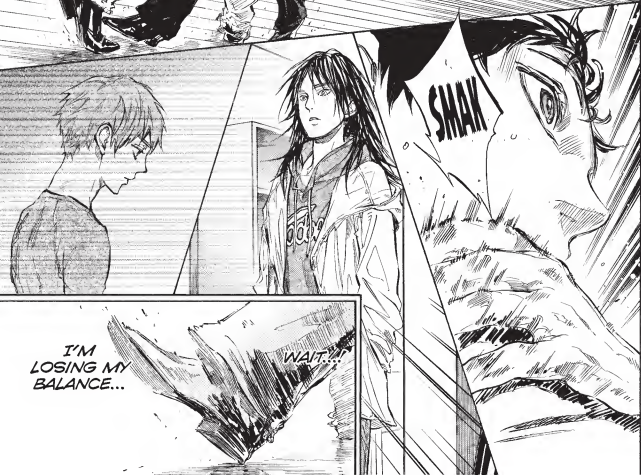


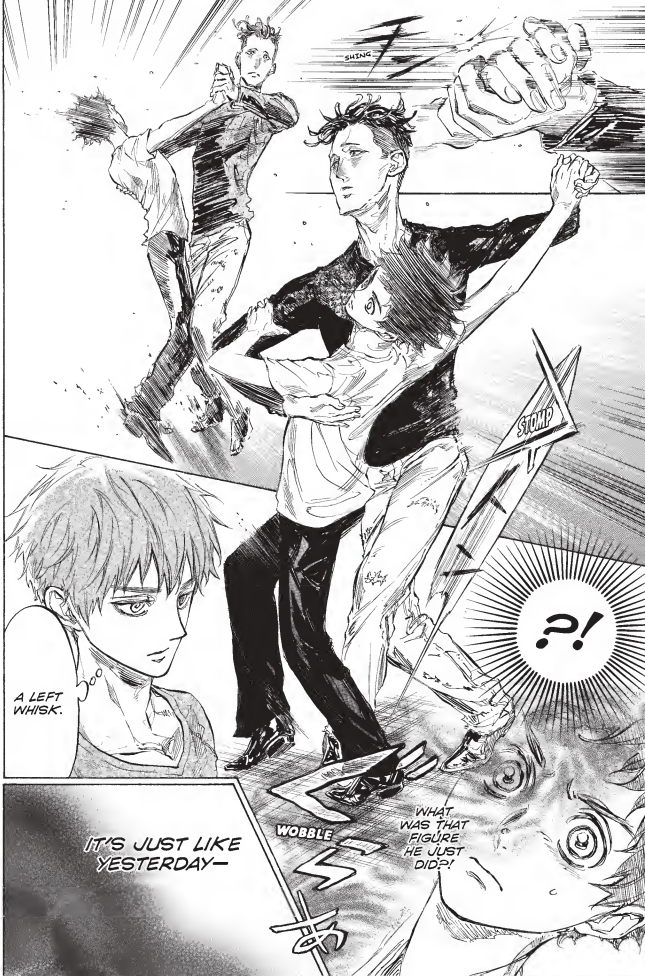
...?



**GO
AHEAD.**







SHING

STOMP

?!

A LEFT WHISK.

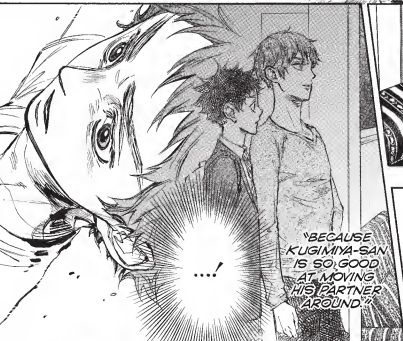
IT'S JUST LIKE YESTERDAY-

WOBBLE

WHAT WAS THAT FIGURE HE JUST DID?!



I CAN'T
RESIST THE
FORCE OF
THE LEAD.



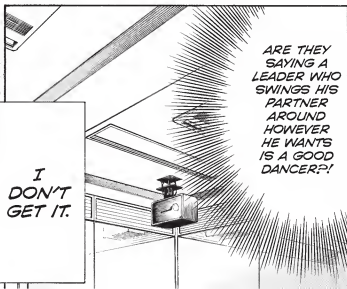
....!
"BECAUSE
KUGIMIYA-SAN
IS SO GOOD
AT MOVING
HIS PARTNER
AROUND."



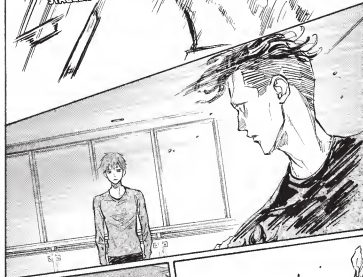
THAT KID'S
KEEPING
UP WITH
OUR USUAL
ROUTINE...

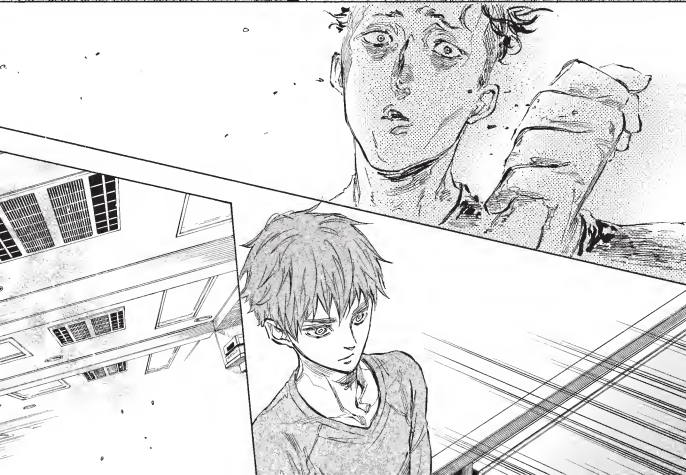


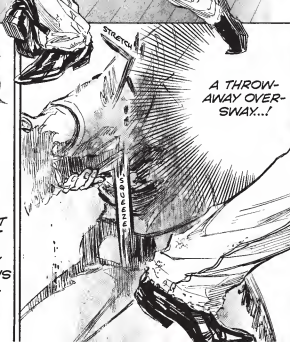
I
DON'T
GET IT.

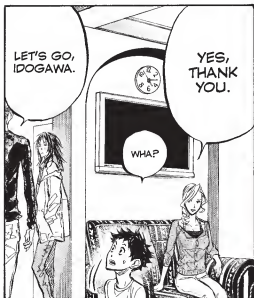
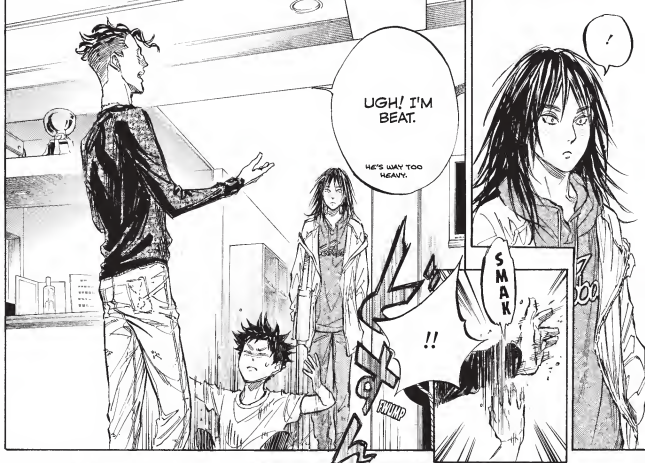


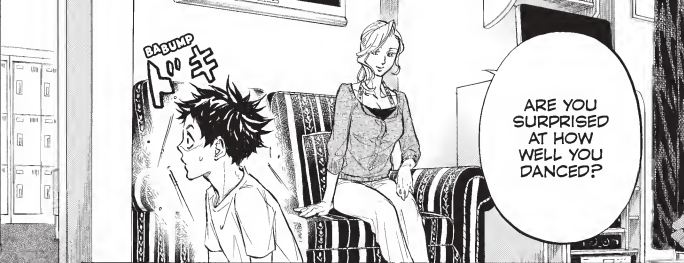
ARE THEY
SAYING A
LEADER WHO
SWINGS HIS
PARTNER
AROUND
HOWEVER
HE WANTS
IS A GOOD
DANCER?!











ARE YOU
SURPRISED
AT HOW
WELL YOU
DANCED?



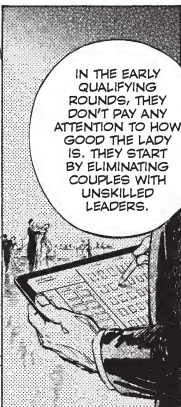
IT WOULD
SEEM THAT
DESPITE THE
SKILL OF THE
PARTNER, THE
LEAD ALONE
DETERMINES
THE OUTCOME,
NO?



...



...HUH?

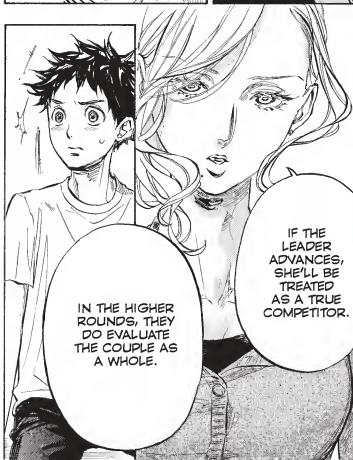
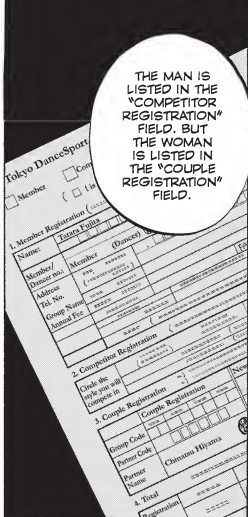


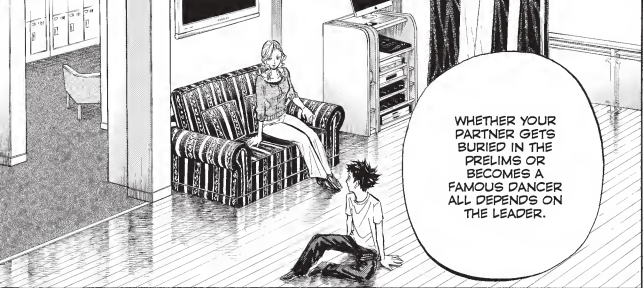
IN THE EARLY
QUALIFYING
ROUNDS, THEY
DON'T PAY ANY
ATTENTION TO HOW
GOOD THE LADY
IS. THEY START
BY ELIMINATING
COUPLES WITH
UNSKILLED
LEADERS.



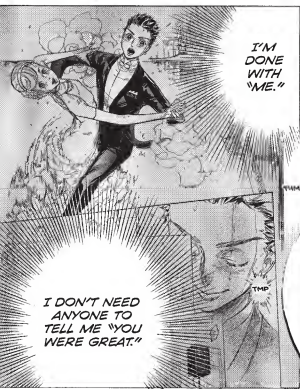
AT
COMPETITIONS,
THE JUDGES
ALL WATCH THE
MEN AND GIVE
COUPLES A
CHECK BASED
ON THEIR
LEADS.

MEN ARE
WATCHED
MORE THAN
WOMEN BY A
7:3 OR 8:2
RATIO.





WHETHER YOUR
PARTNER GETS
BURIED IN THE
PRELIMS OR
BECOMES A
FAMOUS DANCER
ALL DEPENDS ON
THE LEADER.



I'M
DONE
WITH
"ME."

I DON'T NEED
ANYONE TO
TELL ME "YOU
WERE GREAT."



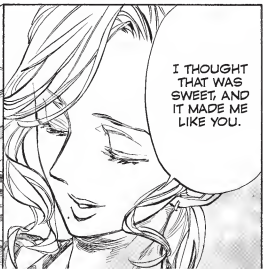
YOU STILL
DANCE
IN YOUR
PARTNER'S
SHADOW.



YOU HAVEN'T
CHANGED AT
ALL SINCE
THE TENPEI
CUP, TATARA-
KUN.



BUT YOU
CAN'T HIDE
BEHIND
THE GIRLS
ANYMORE.



I THOUGHT
THAT WAS
SWEET, AND
IT MADE ME
LIKE YOU.



HEH



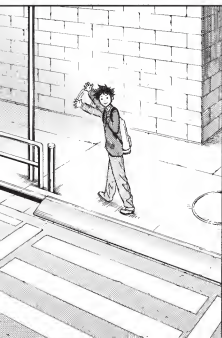
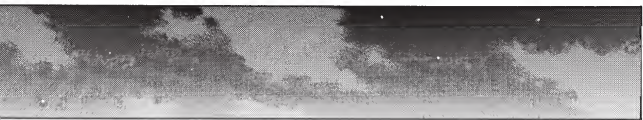
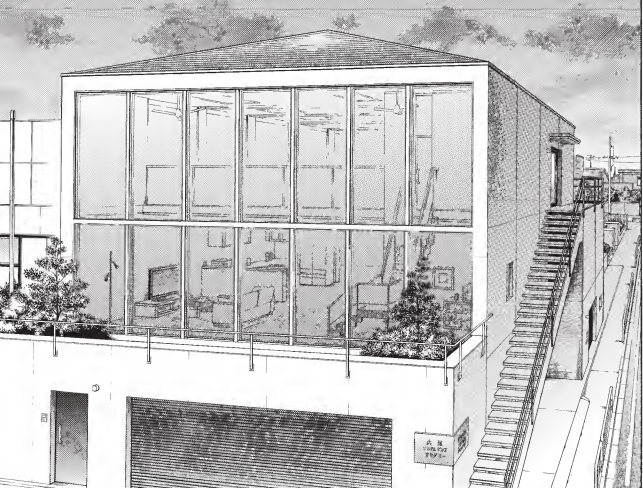
CHINATSU-
CHAN STRIKES
ME AS RATHER
UNRULY, SO I'M
SURE IT WON'T
BE EASY FOR
YOU.

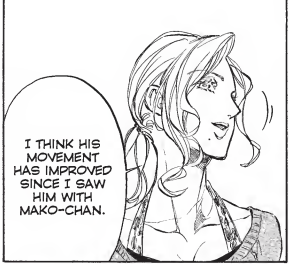


BUT THE
SOONER YOU
BREAK THAT
HORSE, THE
BETTER.



**SHOW
ME HOW
YOU
DANCE,
TATARA-
KUN.**





I THINK HIS
MOVEMENT
HAS IMPROVED
SINCE I SAW
HIM WITH
MAKO-CHAN.



HE'S STILL
WAVING.



IT SEEMS
TATARA-KUN'S
CURRENT
PARTNER IS
ELEVATING
HIS SKILL.



IF THAT COUPLE
CAN FIND A
GOOD FIT, THEY'LL
MAKE FOR QUITE
A CHALLENGE.



NO WEIRD
GIGGLING!

HEE
HEE!

AND NO
RANDOM
MOVE-
MENTS!

FOCUS
YOUR EYES
ON THE
DISTANCE,
AT THE
BACK ROW.

YOUR SMILE
MUST BE
GRACEFUL,
EUPHORIC...



WHAT
ARE THEY
PRACTICING?

THEY SAID
CHINATSU
ISN'T FEMININE
ENOUGH, SO
THEY'RE GIVIN'
HER A CRASH
COURSE IN
TRICKS TO
COVER FOR IT...

STUDENT DISCOUNT:
¥3000 FOR 25
MINUTES.

WHAT'RE
YOU DOING
HERE?!

?!
HEY!

CHINATSU-
CHAN,
YOU'RE SO
REBELLIOUS!

WHADDYA
MEAN, MY
WEAKNESSES?!

WOW!
CON-
FRONTING
YOUR
WEAK-
NESSES
IS REALLY
SMART!

...

TH-
THUMP

I THOUGHT
YOU WANTED
SOME TIME
TO PRACTICE
SEPARATELY?

!!
DART
!

...



SHE'S HAD TO
CARRY THE
WEIGHT OF
BOTH ROLES
FOR SO MANY
YEARS.

IF THE
JUDGES
WON'T
LOOK
AT THE
PARTNER,
THEN
IT'S THE
LEADER'S
RESPON-
SIBILITY—

HUH?

I'M NOT
GOING TO LET
THEM IGNORE
YOU, CHII-
CHAN.

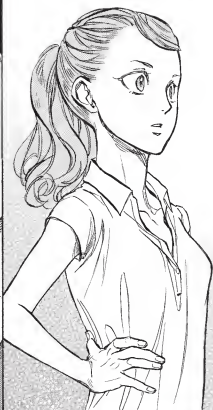
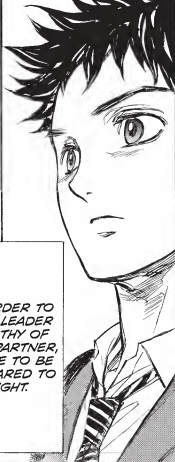
COME
WITH ME.
JUST TELL
YOURSELF
YOU WERE
TRICKED
INTO IT.

IF WE
LOSE,
YOU CAN
BLAME IT
100%
ON ME.



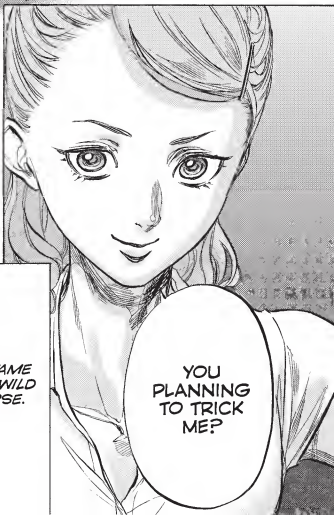


IN ORDER TO
BE A LEADER
WORTHY OF
THIS PARTNER,
I HAVE TO BE
PREPARED TO
FIGHT.



Heat 28: END

TO TAME
THIS WILD
HORSE.



YOU
PLANNING
TO TRICK
ME?

Special Thanks!

For help with interviews

Mr. Yoshihiro Miwa

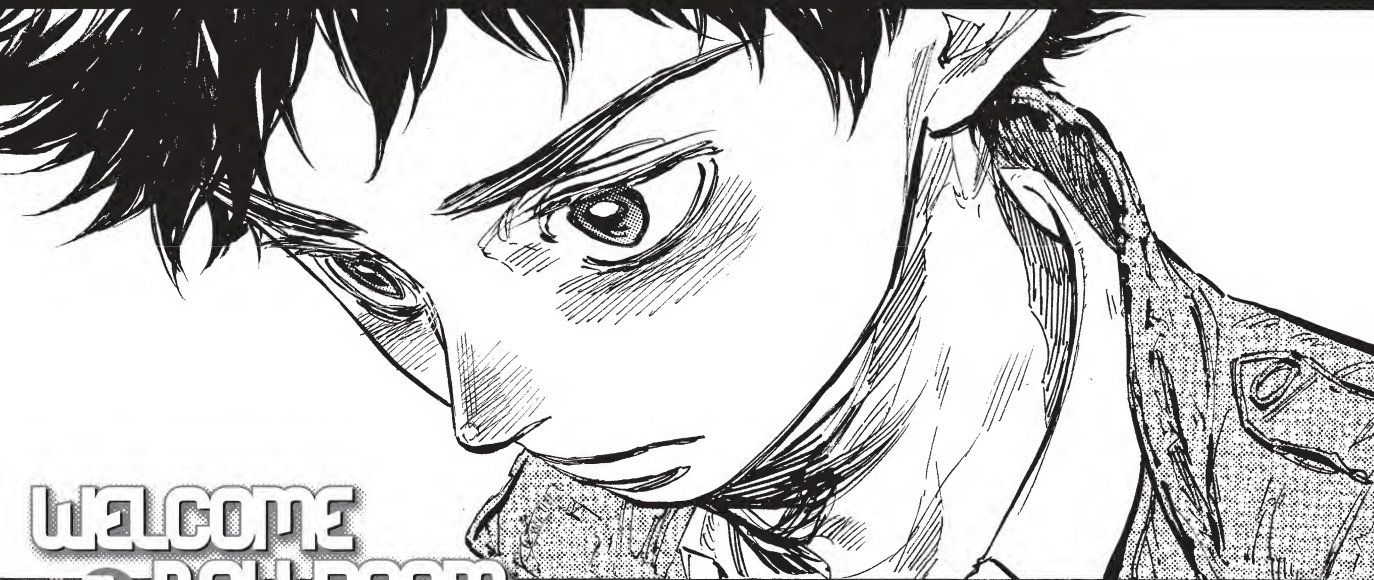
Ms. Tomoko Miwa

For help with background

Sakane Dance School

Café Pousse

*TATARA BEGINS HIS TRAINING AT THE
HYODO SOCIAL DANCE ACADEMY...*



**WELCOME
TO THE BALLROOM**

VOLUME 7 COMING SOON!

*...KNOWING THAT THE APPROACHING
GRAND PRIX COULD DETERMINE HIS
FUTURE AS A DANCER!*

Welcome to the Ballroom 6

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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